Nick Begich

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA

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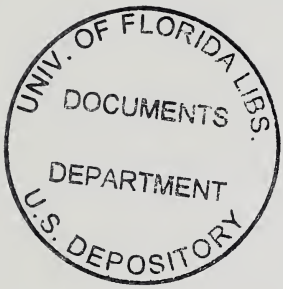

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Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, together with tributes presented in eulogy of

Nick Begich

Late a Representative From Alaska

Ninety-third Congress
First Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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Contents

	Page
Biography	VII
Proceedings in the House	1
Committee appointed to attend funeral	8
Jennings, W. Pat, Clerk of the House of Representatives, letter from Speaker of the House, Carl Albert, dated December 20, 1972	6
Memorial tribute to Congressman Nick Begich	XI
Prayers by Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., Chaplain of the House of Representatives	1, 4, 5
Resolution of respect	7
Tributes by Representatives:	
Abzug, Bella S., of New York	35, 53
Addabbo, Joseph P., of New York	55
Albert, Carl, of Oklahoma	16
Anderson, Glenn M., of California	71
Badillo, Herman, of New York	77
Bingham, Jonathan B., of New York	73
Blatnik, John A., of Minnesota	22
Boggs, Corinne, of Louisiana	48
Brademas, John, of Indiana	19
Article from the Anchorage Times; republished in the journal, Alaska Teacher	20
Poem, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," 50th Anniversary Issue, Winter 1972–73, Alaska Teacher	22
Brasco, Frank J., of New York	62
Brinkley, Jack, of Georgia	75
Broyhill, Joel T., of Virginia	54
Burke, J. Herbert, of Florida	8
Burton, Phillip, of California	25
Camp, John N. Happy, of Oklahoma	84
Carney, Charles J., of Ohio	52
Conte, Silvio O., of Massachusetts	54
Corman, James C., of California	67, 79
Culver, John C., of Iowa	14
Daniels, Dominick V., of New Jersey	74
Danielson, George E., of California	64

Proceedings in the House—Continued
Tributes by Representatives—Continued Page
Davis, Mendel J., of South Carolina 42
de la Garza, E, of Texas 61
Denholm, Frank E., of South Dakota 47
Dingell, John D., of Michigan 46
Dorn, Wm. Jennings Bryan, of South Carolina 75
Drinan, Robert F., of Massachusetts 10, 65
Dulski, Thaddeus J., of New York 82
Remarks at a banquet of the American Federation of Government Employees in Anchorage, Alaska, 1972 82
Edwards, Don, of California 79
Evans, Frank E., of Colorado 33
Fisher, O. C., of Texas 86
Flynt, John J., Jr., of Georgia 64
Foley, Thomas S., of Washington 44
Ford, Gerald R., of Michigan 3
Ford, William D., of Michigan 78
Fraser, Donald M., of Minnesota 69
Fuqua, Don, of Florida 50
Gibbons, Sam, of Florida 33
Grasso, Ella T., of Connecticut 78
Hanley, James M., of New York 12
Hansen, Julia Butler, of Washington 77
Helstoski, Henry, of New Jersey 82
Howard, James J., of New Jersey 36
Hungate, William L., of Missouri 30
Johnson, Harold T., of California 67
Koch, Edward I., of New York 50
Leggett, Robert L., of California 57
McCormack, Mike, of Washington 45
McKay, K. Gunn, of Utah 40
Mann, James R., of South Carolina 60
Mathis, Dawson, of Georgia 39
Matsunaga, Spark M., of Hawaii 32
Mazzoli, Romano L., of Kentucky 10, 38
Meeds, Lloyd, of Washington 71
Mink, Pasty T., of Hawaii 58
Moorhead, William S., of Pennsylvania 29, 68
Natcher, William H., of Kentucky 85
Obey, David R., of Wisconsin 35
O'Hara, James G., of Michigan 51
O'Neill, Thomas P., Jr., of Massachusetts 1, 3, 6, 7, 17
Text of House Resolution 9 6
Podell, Bertram L., of New York 61
Railsback, Thomas F., of Illinois 9

Proceedings in the House—Continued
Tributes by Representatives—Continued *Page*
Randall, Wm. J., of Missouri 46
Rees, Thomas M., of California 66
Reuss, Henry S., of Wisconsin 49
Rodino, Peter W., Jr., of New Jersey 69
Roe, Robert A., of New Jersey 81
Roncalio, Teno, of Wyoming 38
Rooney, Fred B., of Pennsylvania 12
Rosenthal, Benjamin S., of New York 56
Roybal, Edward R., of California 10, 59
Sarbanes, Paul S., of Maryland 43
Seiberling, John F., of Ohio 63
Stanton, James V., of Ohio 44
Stokes, Louis, of Ohio 51
Symington, James W., of Missouri 41, 85
Taylor, Roy A., of North Carolina 76
Tiernan, Robert O., of Rhode Island 59
Udall, Morris K., of Arizona 74
Ullman, Al, of Oregon 72
Van Deerlin, Lionel, of California 61
Vanik, Charles A., of Ohio 37, 73
Whalen, Charles W., Jr., of Ohio 13
White, Richard T., of Texas 56
Wolff, Lester L., of New York 68
Zwach, John M., of Minnesota 80
Proceedings in the Senate 89
Tributes by Senators:
Gravel, Mike, of Alaska 99
Long, Russell B., of Louisiana 89, 90, 98
Mansfield, Mike, of Montana 89
Stevens, Ted, of Alaska 90, 100
Articles from the Anchorage Daily News 91

Biography

Nicholas Joseph Begich, was born in Eveleth, Saint Louis County, Minn., April 6, 1932; attended the Eveleth public schools and Eveleth Junior College; St. Cloud State College, St. Cloud, Minn., B.A., 1952; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn., M.A., 1954; doctoral work at the Universities of Colorado and North Dakota; high school instructor, St. Cloud, Minn., 1952–56; counselor, Anchorage West High School, 1956–57; director, student personnel, Anchorage Independent School District, 1957–59; principal, Fort Richardson School, Alaska, 1959–63, and superintendent, Fort Richardson schools, 1963–68; part-time instructor, University of Alaska, Anchorage branch, 1956–68; builder and manager of apartment houses in Anchorage since May 1968; elected to Alaska State Senate for two 4-year terms, 1963–71, serving as minority whip from 1967; elected as a Democrat to the 92d and 93d Congresses; disappeared while on a campaign flight from Anchorage to Juneau, Alaska, October 16, 1972; served from January 3, 1971, until December 29, 1972, at which time a presumptive death certificate was recorded in the State of Alaska.

A Memorial Tribute to Congressman Nick Begich

East Anchorage High School
Anchorage, Alaska
January 7, 1973

A Memorial Tribute to Congressman Nick Begich

Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives____Rep. Gene Guess

Invocation_____Monsignor Francis A. Murphy
Pastor, St. Patrick's Church, Anchorage

America The Beautiful

Readings_____Margaret Pohjola

The Public Man

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

The State Remembers_____Joe Josephson
Co-Chairman, Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission

The Nation Remembers____The Honorable John A. Blatnik, M.C.
Eighth District, Minnesota
The Honorable Wayne Aspinall, M.C.

Readings_____Margaret Pohjola

The Private Man

The Impossible Dream

The Tribute_____Emil Notti
President, Alaska Native Foundation

Alaska Flag

Benediction_____Reverend Charles H. Eddy
Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Music Supervised by Dewey Ehling and Curtis Blake, Anchorage Community Chorus

Soloist_____Michael A. More

Ushers: David Alexander, Milton Fredericks, Alton Ogard, Leonard Peck, Carl Pohjola, and John Schwamm

Announcer. This is the Memorial Service for Congressman Nick Begich who has been missing on the flight from Anchorage to Juneau since this fall.

The first speaker at the memorial service is the Speaker of the Alaska House, Representative Gene Guess.

Speaker of the House, Gene Guess. Fellow Americans and friends, will you please stand as I read Governor Egan's proclamation.

Whereas Nick Begich was an intensely devoted American, an Alaskan highly esteemed by his fellow citizens in all walks of life, and

Whereas his entire public service career was dedicated to purposes oriented to providing opportunities for all of Alaska's people to achieve fulfillment of productive and happy lives, and

Whereas it is now presumed certain that this outstanding citizen, Nick Begich, has crossed to his great reward in the great beyond, and

Whereas all Alaskans have grieved at the turn of events that took Nick Begich from our midst in his prime time of service to us.

Nevertheless the impact of his brilliant plans for future accomplishment will remain vibrantly alive in the hearts and minds of his beloved wife and family and legion of friends and admirers everywhere.

Now, Therefore, I, William A. Egan, Governor of Alaska do hereby declare Sunday, January 7, 1973, to be Nick Begich Memorial Tribute Day throughout Alaska and the citizens each in his own, or her own, way to lend living expression of gratitude to our departed friend and neighbor.

Signed: William A. Egan,
Governor of Alaska.

Speaker Guess. The Invocation will be presented by Monsignor Francis A. Murphy.

Msgr. Murphy. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Almighty God, the Father of us all, you willingly gave up your Son to a human death so that his resurrection might win for all mankind your salvation. Listen now to the prayers and thoughts of this com-

pany on behalf of the soul of your devoted departed servant, NICK BEGICH, and his companions.

Bow down your ears in pity upon his wife and his children, upon his parents and family, upon all close to this man who has been taken from our midst suddenly. Give them the consolation of their faith, that through their tears they may see you as a merciful and kind Father and that they may always hope in you.

Be gentle with the families of these other men who, with NICK, we commend to your constant mercy.

We ask this and all things in the name of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God Forever and Ever, *Amen.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Rendition: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Speaker Guess. A long time supporter, an enthusiastic campaigner, a true friend, Margaret Pohjola, will present some of NICK's favorite readings from "The Public Man".

Margaret Pohjola. Unquestionably, NICK BEGICH was a man of many talents. His accomplishments were monumental, his energies super human. Of the many public figures he admired, he seemed to have the facility of recognizing the best qualities of each and incorporating those into his own ideas and philosophies. He grew and grew and when you thought that was it, he grew some more.

He was a deeply religious man who loved his country and his State of Alaska. He was in the words of Robert Service, "a man to match her mountains."

He was a Democrat and believed in the ideas of the late President Harry Truman who once discussed in a speech the principles of the party:

> First, the Democratic Party is, and must remain the party of the people. Our primary concern is with the vast majority who make the backbone of the Nation—the working men and women, farmers, people on salary, and people of moderate incomes. We are, of course, also concerned with the welfare of the well-to-do; and I have noticed that in the long run they, too, seem to fare better under the Democrats. But we should

always be sure it can be said of us, "The Democratic Party is the party for the little fellow." The Democratic Party must stand firmly and forthrightly for the full enjoyment and protection of the civil rights and liberties of every citizen in the land regardless of race, creed, or national origin. We must hold fast to our fundamental principles. Some of the principles may seem popular; some may not. But because they are right, we must stick to them, remembering that, in the long run, good government is good politics, and the best government is the best politics. If we don't do what we know is right, we don't deserve to win.

Nick, like Harry Truman, always did what he thought was right. He was a liberal in the tradition of John Kennedy and he admired what President Kennedy had to say on that subject:

> Liberalism is not so much a party creed or a set of fixed platform promises as it is an attitude of mind and heart, a faith in man's ability through the experiences of his reason and judgment to increase for himself and his fellow men the amount of justice and freedom and brotherhood which all human life deserves. Only liberalism . . . can repair our national power, restore our national purpose, and liberate our national energies.

He was a man of strong morality and liked reading from another speech of John Kennedy's:

> No responsibility of government is more fundamental than the responsibility of maintaining the highest standards of ethical behaviour by those who conduct the public business. Let the public service be a proud and lively career, and let every man and woman who works in any area of our national Government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and with honor in future years: "I served the United States Government in that hour of our Nation's need."

He was an educator and believed as Adlai Stevenson did when he said:

> The imperative today, in my judgment, is that we reassert—so that every person in this country is not left in any doubt about it—every man and woman, every politician, yes, and every teacher and every child—our conviction that children's needs have first priority over all other civilian wants.

We have lacked, I fear, the deep inner conviction that education in its broadest sense unlocks the door of our future, and that it gives us the tools without which "the pursuit of happiness" becomes a hollow chasing after triviality, a mindless boredom relieved only by the stimulus of senationalism or quenched with tranquilizers.

And pray, let there be no more derision of the nonconformist; rather let them be encouraged to speak their minds, to criticize and question. The deprecation of the intelligence, the ridicule of the intellectual, has been too often the stock in trade of our demagogues and the easy fashion of our times.

Respect for excellence—an idea which we can confidently draw from our classical heritage of freedom—this respect we must learn for ourselves.

NICK BEGICH was a realist and most of all he liked winning elections. He wanted to make life better for us all and he often said himself:

Philosophy without office is futility.

Life, for him, was not futile. Perhaps he did not live long enough to realize all his dreams, but the life that he lived was a total success.

Rendition: THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

Speaker Guess. At this time Joe Josephson, a friend and colleague of NICK's for 6 years in the Alaska Legislature, will speak:

Joe Josephson. Reverend Clergy, Pegge Begich, Mrs. Boggs, members of the Begich family, distinguished visitors, and friends all of NICK BEGICH.

We are met to mourn our loss of NICK BEGICH—as son, husband, father, teacher, statesman, friend, and leader. But, we are met here to learn from him as well. For in death as in life, NICK BEGICH remains an educator. The life and death of NICK BEGICH instructs us all. They instruct us to recall words from the Book of Ecclasiastes which tell us:

For man also knoweth not his time; as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare, so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

NICK BEGICH—as well men of greatness—knew that man knoweth not his time, and he brought to his work great love and urgency. Let us all, then, learning from NICK, be taught "to number our days so we can get us a heart of wisdom."

The life of NICK BEGICH should rededicate us to serving our Nation and its people, especially those of us who, saddened by inequity and injustice at home, distressed by events abroad, alarmed by the decay of great cities, may forget that our Nation is still the greatest and freest in the world.

NICK BEGICH was a patriot who believed in America and the wisdom of its people. But, NICK'S love was not the love of those who cry, "America, love it or leave it." His love was expressly by works for constructive change. More eloquently than words, NICK'S work said, "America, as I love you, I will work to make you even better."

Of course, NICK BEGICH was ambitious and we are thankful that he was. He was ambitious for public office because he knew, as he told us, as we were just reminded, that while office without philosophy is pointless, philosophy without office is futility.

NICK could have chosen the path of the scholar who hoards his wisdom and scorns the risks of the office of the public service where wisdom is applied in practice but NICK rejected that path.

NICK could have chosen the path of the opportunist, fashioning his every stand to meet all changes in the political wind, functioning in office without conviction, evading issues which carry high political risk. But, he rejected that path too.

Instead, NICK saw his role as a leader as one which included the duty to bring his principles and the vital issues to the people, to persuade them, to educate, to explain, to listen to their common wisdom and to meet them as he often said "house to house and boat to boat."

And, it was typical of him that when challenged by his lesser known opponent to debate in 1972, a challenge that most incumbents would have rejected lest his challenger be publicized, NICK accepted the proposal for debate.

He saw public debate as part of a tradition that he cherished and he saw a duty to join in debate even when the strategy of the campaign suggested other things.

NICK BEGICH loved America because he knew its history, its struggles, its institutions and its ideals but I think his love for America

had even a deeper root—the root of immigrant memory, the roots of an ancestry which had come to this land in search of freedom and opportunity, the roots of a household where freedom was not to be taken for granted, where children were taught that we get from life what we devote to life, and in this free land we get the kind of government we deserve.

We are thankful to that household, to NICK's parents, and for the motivation toward public service which made NICK's great work possible and which influenced his brother Joseph, now mayor of Eveleth, Minn.

So, let us, learning from NICK, rejoice that our Nation is still a land of opportunity, where the son of immigrant parents can develop his talents, achieve educational distinction, exercise his character in the public interest, be lawmaker in the land of their recent adoption.

More than 400 years before the birth of Jesus, Pericles addressed the citizens of Athens in the place where democracy was born; "If we look to our laws," he said, "they afford equal justice to all in their private differences. If to social standing, advancement in public life falls to reputation for capacity, class considerations not being allowed to interfere with merit, nor again does poverty bar the way . . . If a man is able to serve the State, he is not hindered by the obscurity of his condition."

Even while we rejoice in NICK's achievements and in a society where his merit could advance him to the forefront in accordance with his reputation for capacity, we remember that the ancient Greek ideal of equal justice and equal opportunity still escapes us, even in this freest of nations. NICK believed in that ideal. He supported State and Federal proposals to reform election laws, to help give all candidates, rich and poor, a more equal chance and to help assure that public men would treat public office as a public trust.

NICK's battle for the reform is still to be won in Alaska. So, let us, learning from NICK, resolve to win that battle.

The State remembers NICK as its servant in the legislature, an expert in school law and educational policy, the leader of major efforts, such as the establishment of our public school foundation program.

NICK did not choose issues like these by joining easy causes where victory was assured. Like Hubert Humphrey, who inspired him in his

student days in Minnesota, NICK was able to be visionary as well as practical, to advocate measures knowing that their passage years later would be credited to others after him.

The 1972 State passage of local hire legislation, for example, was possible only because NICK BEGICH began the struggle a decade earlier.

So, let us, learning from NICK, understand that it really is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately prevail than to prevail in a cause that must ultimately fail.

NICK'S contribution to State government, though, is bigger than any single piece of legislation, or of all the legislative pieces put together. He set personal standards which still lift the efforts of those who worked with him and after him. He set standards of attendance, of scholarship, of conduct, on and off the floor of the Senate, of helpfulness, of fortitude, standards which all of us, learning from NICK, can strive to emulate for a better Alaska.

Ours is a time of turmoil. Moral and social values are in flux, and in this time of change, NICK was receptive to the ideas of others, tolerant of opinions contrary to his own, understanding of the faults and weaknesses and foibles that together with strengths and virtues mark each of us as a member of the human family.

NICK was not one to put his piety on parade, or affect self-righteousness in commenting about weaknesses of others. But, receptive as NICK was to the ideas of others, understanding as he was about human frailty, open as he was to the crosscurrent of conflicting ideas, NICK respected the Faith of his fathers and valued the spiritual inheritance that was his. So, let us, learning from NICK, rejoice that we are the heirs of great traditions of culture and thought. Let us, learning from NICK, know that men may have the gift of Faith and still be tolerant, that we may be inquiring and yet have Faith, that we can relish what is new, without hatred for what is old, and that it is well to be generous toward others even while we are strict with ourselves.

The State of Alaska also remembers Russ Brown. Russ did not gain his employment in the office of our Congressman by chance. That relationship arose from his own long-time interest in the public affairs of Alaska, his own civic leadership in Ketchikan, his own convictions about the Nation and the State.

Alaska remembers NICK BEGICH, even as the business of Alaska goes on. Let us resolve to do that business better because we knew

and loved Nick Begich. And, let us learn from his life, recalling the words of Longfellow:

"Tell me not in mournful numbers
Life is but an empty dream.
For the Soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.
Life is real, Life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal.
Dust thou art to dust returneth,
Was not spoken of the soul.
Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, as each tomorrow
Finds us further than today.
Art is long, and Time is fleeting
And our hearts so stout and brave,
Still like muffled drums are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.
In the world's broad field of battle
In the bivouac of Life
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
But a hero in the strife!
Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant,
Let the dead Past bury its dead.
Act—act in the living Present.
Heart within, and God o'erhead.
Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main.
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.
Let us, then, be up and doing.
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."

Thank you.

Speaker Guess. As we pay tribute to NICK and his achievements, a good friend who greatly influenced NICK BEGICH to his chosen career in public service, will speak to "The Nation Remembers," The Honorable John A. Blatnik:

Congressman Blatnik. Representative Gene Guess, Reverend Clergy, Pegge Begich, and her attractive, bright young children whom I know, the Jendro family; my dear friends for many years, Mr. & Mrs. John Begich, Sr., parents of NICK, and his fine two brothers, John, Jr., and Joe and his sister; Senator Stevens and my very distinguished—my close friend and a distinguished, recent chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, whom we will hear following my little presentation, and my fellow colleagues who have traveled and journeyed with us on this mission of sorrow; our beloved Lindy Boggs, Mrs. Gravel and Mrs. Egan, distinguished members of the Armed Forces, who have shown such great cooperation in this entire effort, ladies and gentlemen—in short, friends of NICK BEGICH all.

NICK BEGICH was something special. He was a young man in a hurry whose time ran out too soon.

NICK was born, as I was, on the Mesabi Iron Range in Northern Minnesota. He was born less than 20 miles from my home. We lost him half a continent away in the wilderness of his adopted and deeply loved Alaska.

In the scant 40 years between those two happenings, this restless gifted young man achieved a record of public service seldom matched by men allotted twice his span of life. And, yet those of us who knew him well, know he left us with much of his promise still unrealized.

It is strange how the life line of young veteran Hale Boggs, the number two ranking member of the House of Representatives, the majority leader from New Orleans, at the southerly tip of the North American continent and NICK and John Blatnik in the center of the North American continent of Northern Minnesota, and then later on up in Alaska—up North—how they crossed. It was a strangely parallel course that came at a junction this week. While Hale Boggs and I were a generation apart from NICK BEGICH—for example, I was elected to the State senate in 1940 when NICK BEGICH was was 8 years old, that same year Hale Boggs was elected

to the United States Congress. I knew NICK's dear friends and his brothers and sisters quite early in life. We were the children of immigrant parents. Our fathers were iron ore miners who worked hard. Our mothers were dedicated devoted mothers who raised their children under extremely difficult conditions. As we left high school NICK and I both in different—21 years apart, 21 years apart in age, 20 years apart in the same identical path—20 years after I went to State college, NICK went to his State college—although it took me 4 years to graduate, he did it in 2½—because early I, and others of NICK's friends began to know him better as he matured—right after World War II and up toward the War in Korea, just before he came to Alaska—we were clearly impressed by NICK's sincerity, his alertness and awareness of what ought to be done and should be done, his hard work and intelligence, intellect, but above all his dedication and determination and a sense of duty all made possible by his incredible energy.

We taught school in different parts—again about 22 years apart—over the years I came to know a great deal about this remarkable young man, with our common beginnings. Early I, as I mentioned, found the great potential which was in this young man. Following school teaching—22 years apart—I went to the State senate in 1940, he went to the State senate in 1962—22 years apart. I went to Congress in 1946—NICK in 1970—24 years apart. There we met in the House Public Works Committee, along with floor leader, Hale Boggs. Our life lines came together.

All along I felt in my bones that NICK was marked for greatness. He proved it early. Looking back now, I can almost believe that NICK knew how little time he had, because he used every hour of it so fully. Before he was old enough to vote he had committed himself thoroughly to two of the three causes that were to engage his entire life . . . education, public service and the third was to his wonderful family—Pegge and their lovely children we have here this afternoon.

NICK was 24 when he left our Iron Range in Minnesota and moved to Alaska—the year he got married with Pegge in 1956. He was almost a veteran with 4 years of high school teaching and et cetera and he brought his zeal for education along with him, as was explained by the previous speaker. He devoted the remaining years of

his life to promoting the education of Alaska's youth, both in the school system here in Alaska, and in the State senate. He will be long remembered for that as he will for his remarkable accomplishments in Washington, which you will hear from now on.

In his first year in Congress he won passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims bill through the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and the distinguished past chairman will give you details on that. But, when the debate ended on that bill, which had been languishing in Congress for years, the Speaker, Carl Albert, who came into Congress in 1946 with Hale Boggs, with John Blatnik, with the late John F. Kennedy, and with Richard Nixon, Carl Albert got on the floor and made an extraordinary compliment to NICK and I quote:

> "I have been," said Carl Albert, "a member of this House for 25 years. In all that time I have never seen a Member of the House do so much for his State in his first session of his first term in the Congress than the distinguished and hard-working, conscientious, never-say-die, gentleman from Alaska, NICK BEGICH."

Much more could be said on NICK BEGICH's public service, not only to the State which has already been outlined, but to his Nation.

In environmental legislation he played a most active role in the future of power needs with our Congressman Jim Howard, who is here from New Jersey; played a most active role in a monumental $25 billion water pollution legislation, passed over the President's veto by an unprecedented—historical unprecedented—vote, the largest environmental piece of legislation passed in the history of the world by any nation. He was interested in consumer protection, civil rights, labor, education, medicare, social security, and a long list of other issues.

He was deeply and effectively involved in everything that touched the lives of all of our people. But above all, always was NICK loyal to his friends and most and always, he deeply loved his family—Pegge, their children and his parents. NICK BEGICH above all was, not only my friend, but one of the most promising men I have ever met and I shall always miss him.

I shall remember him always in the words of the long ago poet as one of those shining young men and the poet said and I quote—"who died in their glory and and never will be old."

I was asked personally by Speaker Carl Albert that this message of his be read at this service:

> Since it is impossible for me to be here today, I have asked that this statement be read on the occasion of these services to relay a few words about an outstanding young man who has been in my thoughts a great deal these past few weeks.
>
> I watched Nick Begich closely when he came to Congress, and I can attest to the profound respect that he had earned from all of his colleagues. I have never seen a young Congressman with more potential than Nick Begich. I can honestly say that he accomplished more for this State than any other first-term Congressman I have seen during my 26 years in Congress.
>
> He was destined for a great career in the House. To Nick, being a Congressman was a 24-hour-a-day job. Whether fighting for a bill on the floor or speeding off to be with his constituents in Alaska, he was always armed with energy and dedication to do his work.
>
> Although his district was thousands of miles away from Washington, I could always count on him to be on the floor for a vote, even if it meant he had to fly all night to get back.
>
> When he set his sights on something that would benefit Alaska, he never quit until he achieved his goal. His dogged determination and manner of persuasion brought countless benefits to this State.
>
> Nick's greatest achievement in his all too short term in Congress was the Alaska Natives Claims Act, which he almost singlehandedly pushed through Congress. A delegation of 20 Congressmen could not have performed better.
>
> Nick loved the House and he loved the people of Alaska but, most of all, he loved his family. They were his only interest outside of his job. His fine wife, Pegge, and their six lovely children can take pride in this man who gave so much of himself to them, to Alaska, and to his country, and so can his parents.

NICK was not only a fine Congressman, he set a high example of moral standards for his colleagues. He was both a devout and a practicing Christian who always placed his trust in his God.

It was over 2 years ago, when I traveled to Alaska to campaign for NICK, that we first became friends. Since that time, I have come to respect him for his brilliance as a legislator and his goodness as a person. I shall greatly miss him. His memory and friendship shall remain close to me for as long as I live.

CARL ALBERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Speaker Guess. The Honorable Wayne Aspinall will now offer remarks and a message from the congressional majority leader.

Congressman Aspinall. Loved ones and friends of NICK BEGICH, Honorable Clergy, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has not been my personal good fortune to know NICK BEGICH longer than the short time that he served in Congress. During that time I came to know him as a respected colleague, a devoted member of his family, and a loyal member of the committees on which he served. And I speak from personal association with NICK BEGICH for this short period during which we served together and during which time I was privileged to be his chairman of one of the committees of Congress.

It is strange indeed, and I feel quite fitting, that his two chairmen are here together—the gentleman who just spoke to you before me.

May I say that it is meet that loved ones and friends meet in memory of our departed friend, loved one and colleague. All too often in this world of ours we take too many things for granted and fail to pay tribute to those who have given so much for all of us. In this case, given so much in such a short time for all of us.

Some measure those with whom he serves by his relationship to various attributes. Among we who are privileged to be public servants, I mention three attributes that are absolutely necessary in my opinion for effective service. Integrity, sincerity, and industry. NICK BEGICH possessed these three and he possessed them in a great way.

As has been said this afternoon, he gained his place very, very quickly among his colleagues. We could talk long about his accom-

plishments and about his ambitions. I simply shall say to you that in my opinion, NICK BEGICH was a chairman's member. You have heard much said in the press about a chairman but there must be a presiding officer. So, when a young man can come to Congress as NICK BEGICH came, with the idea of serving his people, who directly placed him in a position of authority, and the people of the Nation generally, and do it as effectively as he did, then you have one of the outstanding servants of his time.

My life was enriched by his association with the committee and with his chairman, and many of the accomplishments which were accomplished for the State of Alaska, not only the last 2 years, but in the years preceding, during his short space found him on the firing line giving it everything that he had.

He was indeed a young man of great ability and great love.

Now it is my responsibility, and my pleasure, to read to you the remarks of Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., affectionately known to all of us as "Tip O'Neill", the present majority leader of the 93d Congress:

> When men die their lives are usually summed up by the deeds they have performed in life. Yet, in death, the mere deeds of a beloved friend, a devoted colleague, and a respected Congressman, pale in significance next to the character and spirit of the man himself.
>
> The loss of NICK BEGICH is a tragedy in the dual sense for we have lost not only a man whose future promised to be extraordinary, but an extraordinary man who promised us all hope for the future.
>
> Through his youthful and spirited approach, NICK BEGICH symbolized the "Last Frontier" and the excitement of the Alaskan wilderness which he represented. In the same vein, he displayed a cautious energy that earned favor, admiration, and respect from the rest of his colleagues. In a symbolic sense, as well as a political sense, NICK was Alaska's favorite son, going forth to help realize the dream of a State the size of a continent, exuding confidence, but never dogmatic, displaying expertise, but not self-righteous, totally candid, but never flippant. NICK BEGICH put every ounce of his body and spirit into fulfilling his responsibility as a Member of the Congress. His commitment to Alaska and its people was as varied and as wide-

ranging as the geography itself. His belief in his potential was unwavering. This conviction he transmitted to his colleagues who in turn learned the ways of a State and its people through its Representative in the United States Congress.

For almost two centuries this Congress has symbolized the continuous American quest for liberty and justice. These past 185 years have seen 10,000 men and women representing all of the 50 States join acknowledged heros like James Madison, John Quincy Adams, Sam Rayburn and Harry Truman in the making of congressional history. NICK BEGICH was only the third Representative from Alaska out of this total of 10,000 public servants. In the brief time that he was in Congress he made memorable legislative history for the outstanding role he played in the passage of the Alaska Native Claims bill, in his pavement of a waiver on the Jones Act for the Alaskan ferry, the *Wickersham,* and for his insistence that Alaskan Pipeline legislation include strong guarantees against environmental damage.

NICK BEGICH was remarkably hardworking in a political club which demands hard work as its ordinary membership fee. His exceptional accomplishments and his vigorous methods of attaining legislative goals, serve as an eloquent testament and a provocative challenge for those who see the Congress as a positive force for change and progress.

NICK's untimely disappearance, as he mounted the elusive pinnacle of achievement, causes us all to reflect upon the purpose of death at such an early age. Young death is especially poignant and bewildering. For we in this Nation have lived through this experience many times before and still seek an answer to the imponderable question, "Why are not young men allowed to finish the work they have begun?" We have no special answer to that question. But we can be confident that the determination and vigor distributed by NICK BEGICH in beginning his work will serve as an inspiration for others. That the youth, charm, and confidence that emanated from NICK will be recalled and recalled again by others and that the example of his life will illuminate and enrich the lives of others who will pick up where he was forced to leave off.

To you Pegge, to your six wonderful children, and to all NICK's family and friends who have gathered here today, I send my deepest sympathy. I pray that God will comfort you in your loss.

A wonderful tribute from the majority leader of the Congress.

Speaker Guess. Remembering that a man in public life is also a human being with feelings, needs, and concerns, Margaret Pohjola will now share some words from "The Private Man":

Margaret Pohjola. For those who knew him best, his family, his friends and his staff, it was not the public man who gained their trust, loyalty, and love, but the private one. We all respected and revered his public service, but the wonder of it was that there was so much more.

He was an adoring husband, a loving father, a devoted son and brother, and the best friend we ever had. He was not the hard-driving orator, but a kind and gentle man who hated greed, cruelty, and suffering, but had no hatred in his heart toward another human being He never expected as much from anyone else as he was willing to give himself. He was not pompous or self-righteous, nor is he a martyr, but he was an exemplary man, and such fun to be with.

Some of us who have the privilege of knowing that we were close to him have chosen a few selections that convey something of what he meant to us.

From the Bible, the third chapter of Ecclesiastes:

To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

A time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to beat, and a time to lose, a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

From a poem by Stephen Spender:

I think continually of those who were truly great . . .
The names of those who in their lives fought for life,
Who wore at their hearts the fire's center.
Born of the sun they traveled a short while towards the sun,
And left the vivid air signed with their honour.

From the Carl McGowan eulogy of Adlai Stevenson:

We do not need now to be reminded of what we have lost. That hurt is deep and no one of us is too old to cry. We may better, then, give thanks for what we have had and rejoice in our recollections of how our good fortune came to be.

He knew defeat and disappointment, but he never knew vulgarity, panic, or despair. He was no stranger to ambition, but he remembered that win or lose he had to live with himself after election day. To the public dialog of his time he brought intelligence, civility, and grace. We who have been his contemporaries have been companions of greatness.

From "Romeo and Juliet"

When he shall die
Take him and cut him out in little stars
That he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun.

From Edward Kennedy's eulogy of his brother, Robert.

He was always by our side. Love is not an easy feeling to put into words. Nor is loyalty, or trust, or joy. But he was all of these. He loved life completely. . . . He need not be idealized or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life, to be remembered simply as a good and decent man who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw war and tried to stop it. . . . As he said many times, in many parts of this Nation, "Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say why not . . ."

We thank God for the privilege of having known Nick Begich. Our relationship with him and our relationship with each other be-

cause of him approached perfection. We won't say what might have been—we will say what was—

Don't let it be forgot,
Once there was a spot
For one brief, shining moment
That was known as Camelot.

Rendition: THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

Soloist—Michael A. More

Speaker Guess. Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Native Foundation offers a tribute in the memorial service for Congressman NICK BEGICH:

Emil Notti. Distinguished visitors and NICK's beloved family:

There is something about this great land of ours which attracts men. Perhaps it is the land, its awesome and even terrifying beauty, the richness of its vast wilderness, the bounty of its forests and streams. Perhaps it is the opportunity, the fabled El Dorado, the adventure land we learn about as boys in which part of us will always pursue. Perhaps it is the challenge of life in a society that is still in the making, of existence in a land where nature will always have the upper hand, where the small tasks of survival must compete with the great decisions of the day. Perhaps it is the people—whatever the reasons, many come, but as all of us know, very few stay.

The challenge of Alaska exceeds the strength of all but a few good men. NICK BEGICH was one who stayed, for he was one of us, an Alaskan. And for all and anything that means, he is with us still—always a part of us—forever a part of the Alaskan experience.

NICK BEGICH's Alaska began long before we knew his face in our land. He was born in Minnesota in 1932. He grew up there, respecting the values of his dear family and knowing the contributions of his native State to our national commitment to freedom, justice, and human dignity. Nowhere was this more evident than his choice of profession. NICK BEGICH was a teacher, a school administrator, first in St. Cloud, Minn., and then with us in Anchorage. It was his great cause. He believed in a strong, vigorous educational establishment. A life-long student of political science, he knew its importance to a democratic society.

It is fitting that his first commitment to Alaska was as a teacher. Shortly after he arrived here in 1956, he began work at West High School. His assignment there was his first in more than a decade of active service to Alaskan education.

But, NICK BEGICH was not one to work on just one cause. His boundless energy and prodigious capacity for work were soon employed in the world of politics and the Democratic Party.

His good humor, sensitivity, and deep liberal understanding commended him to many Alaskans, old and new. There was something about him. Here was a man who was willing to work for people, to study and learn on their behalf so that his efforts would insure that the people's needs and interests were government's first concern. Because Alaskans understood this about NICK BEGICH, they worked for him and contributed to his cause.

So, Alaskans discovered NICK BEGICH and realized early in his career that he had something special to offer. They elected him to the State senate in 1962, the first of two terms. In Juneau he distinguished himself again and again by his unceasing efforts on behalf of all Alaskans. Even then, when he represented Anchorage, it was clear that NICK BEGICH's constituency was statewide. It began with the teachers. This was a special relationship. NICK BEGICH knew the problems of the classroom as a parent, citizen, and administrator. But, most of all, he knew them from the standpoint of the professionals who worked there. He devoted himself to improving their lot, knowing, too, that by supporting them, he was contributing to improved education in the State.

Other Alaskans also came to know his work, organized labor, natives, fishermen, government employees, and businessmen recognized those qualities of perseverance, dedicated study, and prodigious effort which marked his character. And they urged him to seek a greater forum.

In 1968 he won the Democratic nomination for the United States House of Representatives. The election campaign was long and hard fought. NICK BEGICH traveled throughout the State, made many new friends and saw first hand the extent of Alaska's problems. Although he lost, his spirit never faltered. He returned to Juneau to work even more effectively for all Alaskans—drawing on his campaign experiences and travels, studying, and preparing himself.

The chance was his alone in 1970. No Democrat opposed him for the nomination and he won handily. Thus, the stage was set for an extraordinary 2 years of achievement as Alaska's single Member of the House of Representatives.

Others will tell of his time there. It was filled with many achievements. He was helped by devoted and fiercely loyal staff, one of whom, Russell Brown, we also mourn today. But, the issues called him—one was the Native Land Claims and when this was passed, a colleague rose to address the House of Representatives—Congressman Morris Udall of Arizona said:

> I want to say, before I close, that I have never seen anyone work harder than NICK BEGICH in a complicated piece of legislation, or one who was saddled in his first term in this body with a more complicated assignment. The gentleman from Alaska has been shot at from all sides. He has been hit at by all parties, and he has handled this tough bill in a magnificent and statesman-like manner. If NICK BEGICH never serves another day in this body, I do not think there will be many people in the State of Alaska who have done as this good man has done in the course of this legislation.

There were to be other days; indeed a lifetime of devoted service—but not the lifetime we had anticipated.

Still, he knew he had his State's support and the regard of many beyond Alaska.

Perhaps his greatest comfort was his family—those fine children, his beloved wife Pegge, his parents, his brothers and sisters. As he was loved by his family, NICK BEGICH was respected by his peers. They knew his diligence and they recognized him as a Democrat. Some of the best of them came to help him and honor him—Carl Albert, John Blatnik, Hubert Humphrey, and then, Hale Boggs. They also came to see Alaska, to know its land, challenges, and people. It may be that they even came to see the source from which their Alaskan colleague drew his tremendous energy. In every case, though, it was to help elect the best of Democrats. And, so it was that good friends gathered that Sunday in October to wish NICK well in what we all knew as a winning race, and to meet the great American Hale Boggs.

It was a grand Alaskan evening—happy, and high with hopes for the future. It is still a wonderful remembrance of political men at their finest, relaxing, and exulting with friends.

The happiness is gone now. The soul is with us. Yet, in life there is always a balance. Now we have both the joy and the sadness. Let us live both. Let us be thankful today for a life well lived. For a family's love. And, for a man's dedication. A life lived—a short life indeed—but a man's life and a leader's life at that!

When any man dies we mourn, but when a leader dies we say special things. And, it has been thus for all ages. Many, many hundreds of years ago a leader died. An unknown poet spoke for his followers with words that reach us today. They are special words, they speak for our grief, they speak for me:

I shall mourn 'til I enter my oaken grave,
A man gone at his tallest heighth
I shall mourn 'til I enter my quiet oak
A man gone; a loss that pierces deep.

Rendition: ALASKA'S FLAG

Speaker Guess. The benediction will be by Rev. Charles H. Eddy, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Anchorage.

Rev. Charles Eddy. Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for this time together, a time of remembering NICK, a time of remembering the public man, a time of remembering the man the State remembers, a time for remembering the man that the Nation will remember, a time for remembering the private man in his thoughts and dreams.

We thank You also, Lord, for a man that laughed and cried and joked and played.

Remember that life is a precious gift and NICK enjoyed and cared for this gift of life and service. Life with his family and friends and coworkers and service to the Nation. And we thank You for this man and his guidance in our life.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and forever more. *Amen.*

Speaker Guess. And that concludes the memorial tribute to Congressman NICK BEGICH, here at East Anchorage High School on the afternoon of Sunday, January 7, 1973.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
FOR
NICK BEGICH

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *October 17, 1972.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., offered the following prayer:

The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.—Genesis 31: 49.

Eternal God and Father of us all, in the closing days of the 92d Congress we pause again in Thy presence to acknowledge our dependence upon Thee and to offer Thee the devotion of our hearts. Through the year Thou hast been our refuge and strength, our present help in time of trouble.

We thank Thee for the opportunities which have been ours working together under the dome of this Capitol of our national life. Here we have endeavored to serve Thee, our Nation and our world. For our labors may we hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Bless the Members of this body, some of whom will return and some of whom will not return. May the benediction of Thy spirit rest upon them that coming or going Thy peace may abide in all their hearts. And grant safe return of our majority leader and our colleague. May the Lord bless us and keep us always and in all ways. Amen.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the circumstances in which our majority leader, Mr. Boggs, and Congressman BEGICH, are missing in a plane.

The White House has been constantly in touch with the Speaker since yesterday when they first learned that Mr. Boggs and Mr.

BEGICH were missing. Also, the congressional offices are getting a report of any developments every 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, apparently the weather is quite bad up there. The search pattern is from Anchorage to Juneau, down the normal air route, and 50 to 75 miles on each side of the air route. Thirty-five aircraft will be lifting off at 0700, local Alaska time, which is 12 o'clock noon our time. The aircraft were unable to take off prior to 7 a.m. Alaska time because of a tremendous fog, I understand. These search planes should be taking off just about this time, now.

Mr. Speaker, these search teams will cover the area from Anchorage to Prince William Sound. As far as the location is concerned, they will have good ceiling at 4,000 feet. Along the coast to Juneau, they expect fog which hopefully will lift about noon, Alaskan time.

Mr. Speaker, the search will be first over water, and when the fog lifts, it will then continue over land.

Of the 35 aircraft in use, four are Army, 11 are Air Force, four are Coast Guard, 15 are Civil Air Patrol, and one FAA.

We have been informed that the pilot who was commanding the two-motor Cessna is one of the great bush pilots of the area. And so, while we pray at this time, we do have hope and we do have confidence that this pilot has been able to find one of the areas where he has landed probably many times through the years. It is our hope and prayer, of course, that the men will be found safe.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Mr. Boggs since I came to Congress 20 years ago. These past 2 years, I have had the distinct pleasure and honor to work closely with him as his assistant, the majority whip, Hale and I have become good personal friends, as well as close professional colleagues. I know no man who has fulfilled his responsibilities as majority leader with more competence, diligence, and resourcefulness.

Throughout this year he has campaigned all over the country almost weekly for Democratic Members or candidates whenever he was asked. His trip to Alaska on behalf of a Democratic Member and close personal friend, after an exhausting postmidnight session, exemplifies the kind of dedication and responsibility that Hale Boggs brought to his job as leader of his party.

I have known and worked with NICK BEGICH for 2 years since he became a Member of the 92d Congress. He is a very affable and

likable Member, and we are all aware of his tireless efforts on behalf of his constituents in Alaska.

Now is the time for us to say a silent prayer that Mr. Boggs and Mr. BEGICH will be found unharmed and returned safely to their homes and families.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue with the normal business today until we have word from Alaska.

Mr. GERALD R. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the heart of every Member of this body is heavy today as we ponder the possible fate of our well-liked and beloved colleague, the majority leader, Hale Boggs, as well as the fate of our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Alaska, NICK BEGICH.

When I heard the news of their disappearance last night I was immediately filled with great apprehension and deep foreboding.

Although we often fought verbally on the floor of the House, Hale and I are very, very close personal friends.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to their wives and families during this period of uncertainty. We can only pray that no news is good news and that with the morning light which is returning to the vast area over which their flight was planned they will be found alive along with the pilot and NICK's district assistant, Russ Brown.

As many of you know, I came to know Hale extremely well during the trip we made together in late June and early July to the People's Republic of China. My wife, Betty, and I have had no more congenial and pleasant and constructive traveling companions than Hale and his lovely wife Lindy.

Let us say a prayer, Mr. Speaker; let us all pray that Hale Boggs and NICK BEGICH and his assistant as well as the pilot will all be found safe and well. I humbly pray You, God, that this may be so.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GERALD R. FORD. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. O'NEILL. I would like to add, also, that both the Speaker and I have been in touch with Mrs. Boggs. Mrs. Boggs and Mrs. Begich have spoken on the phone to each other since this event occurred. Mrs. Begich made reference to the fact that once before her

husband had been found safely after he had been lost in Alaska for 9 hours. All of our prayers go to Mrs. Boggs and Mrs. Begich, with the hope that our dear colleagues will be found alive and well.

WEDNESDAY, *October 18, 1972.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.—1 Thessalonians 5:21.

O Thou holy and merciful God, who seeks us when we go astray and who redeems us warmly when we return with the coming of a new day we would quietly lift our hearts unto Thee in prayer. For this day of Thy grace grant unto us courage, faith, and good will that in meeting the needs of our Nation we may not fail man nor Thee.

Deliver us from bigotry and bitterness, from pettiness and prejudice. Keep us devoted to the higher values and greater virtues which give to life meaning and purpose and which hold us steadfast in the struggle for freedom, justice, and peace in our world.

"God of justice, save our people
From the clash of race and creed.
From the strife of class and faction
Make our Nation free indeed.
Keep her faith in simple goodness,
Strong as when her life began;
Till it finds its full fruition
In the brotherhood of man."

Again we pray for the safe return of our majority leader and our colleague.

May Thy peace and Thy comfort abide in all our hearts, Amen.

This being the day fixed by the 20th amendment of the Constitution for the annual meeting of the Congress of the United States, the Members-elect of the House of Representatives of the 93d Congress met in their Hall, and at 12 o'clock noon were called to order by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Hon. W. Pat Jennings.

The Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., prefaced his prayer with these words of Scripture:

Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.—Joshua 1: 9.

Eternal God and Father of us all, make us aware of Thy presence as we prepare ourselves for a new year together in the service of our beloved country. Bless these Representatives of our people with Thy most gracious favor and so move within their hearts that they may look to Thee for guidance and from Thee receive wisdom to walk in Thy ways, strength to stand steadfastly for the common good, and confidence to labor courageously for peace, justice, and freedom in our world. Support them all the day long as they face the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Before Thee we remember with affection and with sorrow Hale Boggs, Frank Bow, NICK BEGICH, George Collins, and Harry S Truman. May these beloved colleagues and our former President find favor in Thy sight and receive the reward of work well done for our Republic. Comfort their families with the strength of Thy spirit.

Now let us unite in praying together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The CLERK. On December 20, 1972, the Speaker directed a letter to the Clerk of the House which the Clerk will read.

WASHINGTON, D.C.,
December 20, 1972.

Hon. W. PAT JENNINGS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. JENNINGS: When the 93rd Congress convenes on January 3, 1973, the House will be confronted with a situation which is unprecedented in our history. I refer, of course, to the probability that the Representatives-elect from the Second Congressional District of Louisiana and from the at-large seat in Alaska will not appear to take the oath of office at noon on that day.

While it is common knowledge that Representatives-elect Hale Boggs and NICK BEGICH, together with Russell L. Brown and Don Jonz of the State of Alaska, departed by plane from Anchorage, Alaska, on October 16, 1972 on a flight bound for Juneau, Alaska, and have been missing since that date, any action which the House might take to declare their seats vacant, or otherwise pertaining to their status as Representatives-elect, should, I believe, be based upon the most reliable and official documentary evidence available as of January 3, 1973.

I therefore request that you obtain, for transmittal to the House when it convenes on January 3, 1973, certified copies of any judicial determination and other relevant information then available with respect to the status of the persons in question. Such documentary evidence will then enable the House to more properly discharge its constitutional responsibility in this matter.

Sincerely,

CARL ALBERT.

The CLERK. Pursuant to the Speaker's instructions the Clerk has forwarded to the Speaker a certified copy of the certificate of presumptive death of the Honorable NICK BEGICH, of Alaska.

Also contained in the certified information which the Clerk has forwarded to the Speaker is documentary evidence that the Honorable Hale Boggs, a Representative-elect from the State of Louisiana, was a passenger on a plane which disappeared on a flight from Anchorage, Alaska, to Juneau, Alaska, on October 16, 1972.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 9) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 9

Resolved, That there shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House a sum equal to the annual compensation of a Representative in Congress as a gratuity to Margaret J. Begich, widow of NICK BEGICH, late a Representative-elect from the State of Alaska.

Resolved, That there shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House, until otherwise provided by law, such sums as may be necessary to compensate the clerical assistants designated by the late NICK BEGICH and borne upon the clerk hire payrolls of the House of Representatives at the close of the 92d Congress at the rates of compensation then payable to said clerical assistants, until a successor is elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the said NICK BEGICH; *Provided,* That the Clerk of the House is hereby authorized to employ two additional employees, to fill the vacancy on the staff of the late NICK BEGICH caused by the death of Russell L. Brown of Alaska and to fill the other vacancy on that staff which has occurred since the death of the late NICK BEGICH, and there shall be paid from the contingent fund such additional sums as may be required to compensate the employees so designated at a rate to be determined by the Clerk: *Provided further,* that the Clerk is authorized to make, from time to time, such salary adjustments as he deems advisable with respect to all of the aforementioned employees.

Resolved, That there shall be paid from the contingent fund of the House until a successor is elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Representative-elect NICK BEGICH, such sums as may be required for the Clerk of the House to:

(1) pay all necessary expenses required to maintain in operation the three offices in the State of Alaska, and the one office in the District of Columbia, operated by the late Representative NICK BEGICH at the close of the 92d Congress;

(2) provide such office expenses, including telephone allowance, equipment rental, stationery, and postage, as the Clerk deems essential to the proper operation of these aforementioned offices;

(3) pay the expenses of travel between Washington, D.C., and the State of Alaska, and within the State of Alaska, for such personnel as the Clerk may specifically designate and authorize to travel in connection with their official duties as clerical assistants in the aforementioned offices.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 15) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 15

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable NICK BEGICH, a Representative-elect from the State of Alaska.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 94) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 94

Resolved, That the Speaker be authorized to appoint a committee of the House, together with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, to attend memorial services to be held for the Honorable NICK BEGICH in Anchorage, Alaska, on January 7, 1973.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee to attend the memorial services for the Honorable NICK BEGICH the following Members on the part of the House: Hon. John A. Blatnik, Hon. John N. Camp, Hon. James J. Howard, and Hon. Teno Roncalio.

Mr. BURKE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of two Members of the 92d Congress in an Alaskan storm that enveloped their airplane, and in all probability took them forever from us, gives me cause to rise now and point to the footprints they left for us in the sands of time.

NICK BEGICH was a young man of 40 with a zest for living and with maturity that belied his years. Although he served only one term in the U.S. Congress, he left his mark with his efforts for the passage of the Alaskan Native land claims legislation and his appeal for the construction of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline. He was a tireless, dedicated worker, and answered 99 percent of all the House rollcalls during his first year in office. The future years that death deprived him of is a loss to all mankind.

He was not a native of Alaska but certainly he earned the right to be acclaimed one of Alaska's most distinguished sons. Mrs. Burke and I had the pleasure and the excitement of his company with his

wife not too long ago in New York. His loss seems personal to me as I am sure it does to so many of us all.

I mourn with his wife Pegge, and with his children, the passing of our friend who had such great potential.

MONDAY, *January 15, 1973.*

Mr. RAILSBACK. Mr. Speaker, the 93d Congress has opened without several familiar persons. All of us are particularly saddened by the loss of three distinguished Members.

In October, Congressmen NICK BEGICH of Alaska and Hale Boggs of Louisiana disappeared during the course of an air flight over Alaska, while Mr. Boggs was campaigning for the reelection of Mr. BEGICH. To date, no trace of them, their pilot, or their aircraft has been found.

In December, Representative George Collins of Illinois was one of many people killed in the tragic crash of a commercial airliner in Chicago.

These three men, from different districts and States, held a common respect for the national legislature and for the good of the people of their home district.

George Collins traveled to his district on Chicago's West Side almost every weekend as his way of keeping in close touch with those he represented. He was a tireless champion of the rights of all Americans, and the Seventh District of Illinois has indeed lost a good friend and public servant.

When Hale Boggs came to the House of Representatives in 1941, he was just 26 years of age, the youngest man in Congress. In the long and eventful years since he first came to Washington, he has risen to positions of authority in the various committees and forums of the House. As majority leader, Hale Boggs provided the leadership for his party, and he served the people of Louisiana well.

NICK BEGICH came to the House 2 years ago as Alaska's Representative-at-Large. He quickly moved to take on many issues confronting the Congress, and served ably on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. His knowledge of Indian affairs, national parks, and public lands has been of great value to his colleagues.

These men are certainly going to be missed by the 93d Congress. I know I speak for all my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathies to their families.

THURSDAY, *June 21, 1973.*

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to those paying tribute to our friend and former colleague, NICK BEGICH. His disappearance and untimely death was indeed a shock.

Originally from Eveleth, Minn., his election first as State senator and then Representative in Congress for Alaska gives testament to the very high esteem in which he is held by our fellow Americans in that area. During his short but distinguished career in the House, he proved their regard to be well founded.

The premature loss of this young, capable and dedicated legislator is deeply felt by us all. I extend to his wife and family my sincere sympathy and condolences.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, during his brief term of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, my close friend and classmate NICK BEGICH left his enduring mark on this body.

His enthusiasm for his work and dedication to his constituents were notable. He quickly showed leadership among his peers and was elected as an officer of the 92d Congress Democratic Club.

I did not have the privilege of a long friendship with NICK BEGICH. The divine plan was written otherwise.

But the associations which we shared, though briefly, were proof to me of his qualities as a husband, a father, and a thoughtful legislator.

His tragic and untimely death is a loss to all of us—classmate and colleagues alike—and a grievous tragedy to his wife, Pegge and their children.

On this sad and sorrowful occasion, as we bid a fond farewell to our friend, NICK BEGICH, I ask God's eternal blessings on his soul.

Mr. DRINAN. Mr. Speaker, I admired my friend NICK BEGICH, who came to Congress with me, for many personal and professional reasons.

The personal reasons why I lament the tragic death of Nick Begich are many. But the personal association with Nick Begich which I shall cherish the most occurred on the evening of Sunday, March 5, 1971, when Nick Begich and his lovely wife Pegge came to a reception on my behalf amidst a wild New England snowstorm. It was on that evening that I learned from the address of my fellow freshman Congressman about the intensity of his idealistic and moral purposes in coming to the Congress. Representative Begich spoke passionately about the necessity of reordering our priorities, of diminishing the enormous military budget and of enacting legislation which would bring adequate education and health benefits to all of the citizens of America.

I worked closely with Nick Begich on a number of issues. I joined him in his opposition to the detonation of the nuclear blast off the coast of Alaska in the project called Cannikin. I sought and followed his counsel with regard to the historic bill enacted in the 92d Congress which after many decades finally settled the claims of the native Alaskans. Congressman Begich was a conferee on that landmark legislation and in that capacity spent what seemed to be countless days in settling long disputed points between the Senate and House versions of a monumental bill designed to finalize decisions to protect the human, the economic, and the environmental interests of the people of Alaska.

Nick Begich had a distinguished career even before becoming a Member of the 92d Congress. He obtained his M.A. in educational administration and political science from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He was finishing his doctorate work at the University of Colorado when he went to Alaska with his new bride in 1956 to become an instructor at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. During the years that followed Nick Begich was a principal of a high school for 4 years, the superintendent of schools for 5 years in Fort Richardson and a member of the Alaska State Senate from 1963–71. He served as minority whip of the State senate in the years 1967–71.

Nick Begich came to the Congress after his election on November 3, 1970, because of his profound devotion to the State and the people of Alaska. He was happiest when he could inform his colleagues in the Congress about the problems and the fantastic potential of his adopted State. He took the long and immensely tiring trip to Alaska as often as he could.

It was a tragedy beyond description for the State of Alaska, for the Congress of the United States and for all of us that NICK BEGICH died tragically at the age of 40. I shall always be indebted to him and devoted to all of the admirable ideals to which he devoted the work of his lifetime. Our prayerful and compassionate feeling goes to NICK BEGICH's wife Pegge and to his six children, Nichelle, Nicholas, Thomas, Mark, Stephanie, and Paul.

The memory of Congressman NICK BEGICH will always be held in everlasting benediction by those who knew him and loved him.

Mr. HANLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to offer a personal note of sympathy to the family of our late, beloved colleague, NICK BEGICH.

I think everyone in this Chamber will agree that NICK BEGICH was on the threshold of a magnificent career in government. He had already served the people of Alaska, and indeed, of the entire United States, with great dignity and dedication. The fact that he was reelected to the House of Representatives last fall, even though presumed dead, is a testimony to that fact.

NICK was a skilled legislator and a good politician in the finest sense of that term. We will miss him as a legislative colleague, but we will miss him more as a friend.

Rita joins me in extending our deepest prayers to NICK's lovely widow, Pegge, and to their six wonderful children.

Mr. ROONEY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most fitting tribute we can pay to our former colleague, NICK BEGICH, is to remember today his vital presence among us as he worked relentlessly in the interest of his home State of Alaska and its special problems as the last frontier area in the United States.

In one term in Congress, he swept to passage, with his characteristic enthusiasm, several measures which had been shelved for some time—the Alaska Native Land Claims bill, the waiver of the Jones Act for the Wickersham, and improved transportation and communication for Alaska. An initial opponent of the Alaska pipeline he felt, after studying the project in great depth, that the environmental problems could be resolved before construction began.

NICK BEGICH believed in this country, and most of all he believed in the people of this country. He believed that the divisive American involvement in Southeast Asia should be ended because the Amer-

ican people themselves faced many problems that required remedies. He believed that those in this country who are deprived of their rights should have them guaranteed, so he voted for the 18-year-old vote and the womens' rights amendment. And he believed that the average American needed the tools and the knowledge to cope with the complexities of modern society, so he voted for consumer protection legislation and increased expenditures for education.

We were all shocked and saddened by his untimely passing and my wife and I extend our most heartfelt sympathy to his wife and children. May the knowledge that he served his country with distinction be their comfort.

Mr. WHALEN. Mr. Speaker, often it is not until a Member has served a term or so that there is an awareness of his individual attributes. However, it was only a short time after NICK BEGICH joined us that Members on both sides of the aisle realized NICK's concern and determination in dealing with national and constituent problems.

My own most vivid recollection of NICK's dedicated endeavors is of his project to help the town of Delta Junction obtain a fire engine. As my colleagues will recall, in December 1971, NICK asked us to bring to the attention of our constituents the fact that Delta Junction needed 5 million General Mills trading stamps and Betty Crocker coupons. If that goal were reached, the isolated town would receive a fire engine. I mentioned his request in my next newsletter. Both NICK and I were overwhelmed by the response of Dayton area residents. In fact, their contributions continued to pour in long after the announcement that the goal had been reached. I was extremely proud of my constituents' efforts, and NICK was deeply grateful. Each one received a personal note of thanks from him.

Certainly, the people of Alaska were indeed fortunate to have NICK as their representative, if even for a short time.

Mrs. Whalen joins me in extending our sympathy to Mrs. Begich and her children.

May NICK rest in peace.

Mr. CULVER. Mr. Speaker, today we have set aside a time in our deliberations to honor a former Member of this body, the late NICK BEGICH of Alaska.

His stay with us was all too brief, and yet it is particularly appropriate that on an evening such as this, at this late hour, so many of his devoted friends are present. They are present to pay tribute to this remarkable colleague of ours, with whom many of us have served beginning in the 92d Congress.

NICK was a refreshingly welcome freshman when he joined us in January of 1971. He was indeed, as outgoing and as expansive as the 49th State, which he represented with such unbelievable vigor.

NICK was 40 years old at the time of his disappearance and yet, characteristically, he had spent his 40th birthday in Seoul, Korea, with his lovely wife Pegge, cementing good relations with first the Japanese and then the Koreans on behalf of Alaska.

In those 40 years he contributed more, in a way, toward public service than most of us will manage with much longer careers in public life.

Here in the House we came to know NICK for his prodigious efforts on behalf of his native State. When he first came to the Congress, he indicated he wanted to be a member of two principal committees which would most directly affect Alaska, and he set out with his usual zeal to win membership on those two committees, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Public Works.

He did not just want to be a member of those committees for some transitory political benefit or value, or merely for the sake of the record, and he quickly proved he was much more interested than that. He was a very dedicated and working member of all of his committee assignments. He maintained an impressive record of above 90 percent attendance for all meetings held by these committees in two years.

His voting percentage on the floor of the House was better than 96 percent in his two sessions.

NICK always felt that if he wanted to win support for programs benefiting Alaska he must be in committee and on the floor to support those programs of importance to areas represented by other Members. It was a practice which reaped rich rewards in NICK's

efforts to have the Alaska Native land claims legislation considered by this body.

NICK was the consummate legislator. He left no stone unturned in his efforts to represent Alaska, and it was that remarkable ground work that he so carefully laid which contributed to Alaska's interest when the Native claims legislation came before this body for a vote. That legislation passed this House by a vote of 344 to 63 on October 20, 1971, exactly 9 months after NICK came to Congress.

Rarely in the long and distinguished history of this House has a freshman Member in the first session of his first term been selected as a conferee for such major legislation, but NICK was so selected. And again, on December 4, 1971, the House was called upon to approve the conference report on H.R. 10367, the Alaska Native land claims bill, which it did by a vote on that occasion of 307 to 60.

This legislation, the largest Native settlement ever passed by the Congress of the United States, almost certainly could not have passed without the legislative skill, during this period of demanding work on legislation which had never before emerged from a subcommittee, of NICK BEGICH. And yet NICK also found time to become involved in other projects here, many of them.

He was the first freshman Representative who was elected to the executive committee of the Democratic study group in what I recall as a spirited contest in 1971, and he was also selected by his fellow freshmen to be treasurer of the 92d Congress Club that year.

Those of us who saw him in action can testify to the enormous dedication he brought to these responsibilities. He was always a forceful participant in the work of the Democratic study group and, in addition, to his executive committee assignment, he was vice chairman of the Indian Education Task Force as well of the DSG.

In 4 years NICK brought many people from this Congress to Alaska. He always felt that the more people who became familiar at first hand with the unique problems of Alaska, the better that State would be understood here in Washington. Alaska was NICK's consuming interest and great love, and he wanted to share all aspects of his experience in this Last Frontier with everyone he met. Certainly, seldom has any area of this Nation had a more eloquent, a more dedicated, a more inexhaustible spokesman for its interests than NICK BEGICH.

Mr. Speaker, I recall how proud he was to say that he represented the largest legislative district in the world, some 586,000

square miles. All of his colleagues knew that he represented Alaska with skill, with understanding, with courage and compassion, and NICK BEGICH has left an indelible impression on those of us who were privileged to serve with him and to know him and to value him so much as a friend.

He was indeed a politician in the finest and the most noble sense of that word, a man who devoted his life to public service with the highest distinction.

We all have suffered an irreparable loss, but we all must be eternally grateful to NICK BEGICH who was able to share a portion of his vital life with us in this place.

I am confident that as long as any of us are honored to continue to serve here, the memory of NICK BEGICH will remain with us as a most inspiring legacy of a true and gifted public servant.

To his lovely and gracious wife, Pegge, and his devoted family go our heartfelt sympathies and most profound respects.

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly appropriate that the distinguished gentleman from Iowa should take this time for this purpose, and it is most appropriate that, despite the lateness of the hour, we should continue with the program which had been planned for this occasion.

In all my years of service in the House of Representatives, I can say without equivocation that I have never known a person who gave more to his job, who accomplished as much for his State in such a short period of time as NICK BEGICH.

NICK started to work the day he took his oath in the House of Representatives, and he never quit until he took that ill-fated trip with our colleague, the former majority leader, Hale Boggs, which ended in one of the greatest tragedies that has occurred in this House in my time.

NICK did so many things so well. It was my pleasure to go to Alaska in 1970 during his campaign and to campaign with him for a little while. He put the same enormous energy and enthusiasm and optimism in that campaign that he put into every single piece of legislation in which he became interested in this House.

Without funds, with an enormous territory to cover, NICK was one of those never-say-die individuals. It was obvious to everyone who knew him and to everyone whom I met when I was with him in Alaska

and to me that here was a winner, here was a man who was going places.

The pace of his life in the House seemed so fast and so determined that he almost, it seems, had a foreboding that he had only a little time in which to do the things he wanted to do.

Of course, he did pass the most memorable Indian bill in the history of the House of Representatives. He led the fight here in the House and followed it to the other body and to the White House.

He worked in everything he started with that same enthusiasm and determination which carried through to the end.

We are almost on the eve of the Alaska pipeline bill. While that is a controversial measure, I will say if it becomes law—and I think it will in some form—NICK BEGICH contributed more to it and to its final success than any other human being. He talked to me about it every time he saw me just as he did the Indian Claims Act. He did it with that friendliness and enthusiasm which was contagious and which made you want to help him.

Had NICK lived, there is no telling what he could have done. The world was before him for conquest. He did so much in such a little time.

He left his lovely wife Pegge and their lovely children. All our hearts go out to them as they did when we lost NICK nearly a year ago. Mrs. Albert joins me in extending to them our deepest sympathy and our hope that we may in some measure reflect in what we do for Alaska the love and respect and honor that we have for their loved one, NICK BEGICH.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise to pay heartfelt tribute to our former colleague, NICK BEGICH. This brief period can hardly suffice for us to adequately honor NICK. For his unlimited energy and spirit made a lasting impression on this House, and on all those who had the good fortune to serve with him.

NICK was a young man, from a young State, who was taken from us at all too young an age. Yet, even during his few years in the House, NICK had quite an impact. It was in large measure, thanks to NICK, that this House adopted the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement. It was largely at NICK's insistence that we attached strong guarantees against environmental damage to pipeline legislation.

Had he lived, NICK would doubtless have contributed even more. So his untimely death was more than just a personal blow to each and every one of us—it was a serious loss to this House.

Let the memory of NICK's youthful dynamism, concern for the young, and of his contribution both to the State of Alaska and to this Nation now serve as an inspiration to us all. They will never be forgotten.

My wife Mildred joins me in offering our deepest sympathy to NICK's wife Pegge and their six wonderful children.

I include remarks made on my behalf at a memorial service for NICK held in January in Anchorage:

When men die, their lives are usually summed up by the deeds which they have performed in life; yet, in death, the mere deeds of a beloved friend, a devoted colleague, and a respected Congressman pale in significance next to the character and spirit of the man himself. The loss of NICK BEGICH is a tragedy in the dual sense, for we have lost not only a man whose future promised to be extraordinary, but an extraordinary man who promised us all hope for the future.

Through his youthful and spirited approach, NICK BEGICH symbolized the dynamism and excitement of the Alaskan wilderness which he represented. In the same vein, he displayed a cautious energy that earned favor, admiration, and respect from the rest of his colleagues.

In a symbolic sense as well as a political sense NICK was Alaska's favorite son, going forth to help realize the dreams of a State the size of a continent. Exuding confidence but never dogmatic, displaying expertise, but not self-righteousness, totally candid, but never flippant, NICK BEGICH put every ounce of his body and spirit into fulfilling his responsibilities as a Member of Congress. His commitment to Alaska and its people was as varied and wide ranging as the geography itself, and his belief in its potential was unwavering. This conviction he transmitted to his colleagues, who in turn learned the ways of a State and its people through its Representative in the U.S. Congress.

For almost two centuries this Congress has symbolized the continuous American quest for liberty and justice. These past 185 years have seen 10,000 men and women representing all of the 50 States—Madison, John Quincy Adams, Sam Rayburn, and Harry Truman—in the making of congressional history. NICK BEGICH was only the third Representative from Alaska out of these 10,000, and in the brief time

that he was in Congress he made memorable legislative history with the outstanding role he played in the passage of the Alaskan Native Land Claims bill, in his attainment of a waiver on the Jones Act for the Alaskan ferry, the *Wickersham,* and for his insistence that Alaskan pipeline legislation include strong guarantees against environmental damage.

NICK BEGICH was remarkably hard-working in a political club which demands hard work as its ordinary membership fee. His exceptional accomplishments and his vigorous methods of attaining legislative goals serve as an eloquent testament and a provocative challenge for those of us who see the Congress as a positive force for change and progress.

NICK's untimely disappearance, as he mounted the elusive pinnacle of achievement, causes us all to reflect on the purpose of death at such an early age. Young death is especially poignant and bewildering, for we in this Nation have lived through this experience so many times before and still seek an answer to the imponderable question—Why are not young men allowed to finish the work which they have begun? We have no satisfactory answer to that question. But we can be confident that the determination and vigor exhibited by NICK BEGICH in beginning his work, will serve as inspiration for others; that the youth, charm, and confidence which emanated from NICK will be recalled and recalled again by others, and that the example of his life will illuminate and enrich the lives of others, who will pick up where he was forced to leave off.

To you Pegge, to your six wonderful children, and to all NICK's family and friends who are gathered here today I extend my deepest sympathy. I pray that God will comfort you in your loss.

Mr. BRADEMAS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of our late friend and colleague, the Honorable NICK BEGICH of Alaska. Although he was with us in the House of Representatives but a short time, he won both the affection and respect of those who became acquainted with him.

NICK BEGICH clearly found immense satisfaction in serving the people of Alaska in Congress. He was a hard worker, marked with a keen mind and a lively sense of humor.

As a member of the Committee on Education and Labor, I had known NICK even before he came to Congress because of his reputation as a strong supporter of education. Indeed, he had been a school

teacher and principal and, as a member of the Alaska State Senate, proved a vigorous voice for the schools of his State.

Mr. Speaker, evidence of the high regard in which NICK BEGICH was held in his home State is the following article by Bill Tobin, of the Anchorage Times, which was republished in the journal, Alaska Teacher.

THERE WAS NEVER DOUBT WHEN NICK BEGICH WALKED INTO A ROOM—EVERY PLACE HE WENT HE MOVED WITH GUSTO

(By Bill Tobin)

Without question, his career and his life had reached a high point just before whatever tragedy befell him 12 days ago, within hours—or minutes—after taking off from Anchorage International Airport in a small, twin-engined plane bound for Juneau. His companions were another congressman, an aide, the pilot, and some terrible, dreadful weather conditions.

That little plane went down, ironically, at a time when everything else around NICK seemed to be going up. Life was zooming for the handsome and vigorous 40-year-old politician.

Just the night before he had laughed until tears filled his eyes at the great wit of one of the nation's leading political figures, Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana, the majority leader of the United States House of Representatives—a body in which NICK BEGICH had served just one year, 10 months and 13 days.

It says a lot about NICK BEGICH that this senior congressman would come to Alaska to campaign for so junior a colleague. They appeared together on the platform here that Sunday night two weeks ago. In a fund-raising event for the BEGICH campaign. And together they took off from Anchorage at 9 o'clock the next day in an orange and white Cessna 310—along with BEGICH's aide and friend, Russ Brown, and pilot Don Jonz.

They were bound for Juneau, but nobody knows how far they flew before tragedy struck, Maybe it was in the pass before reaching Whittier, maybe it was out over the raging waters of Prince William Sound, maybe it was near Yakutat, perhaps it was as far as Cape Fairweather, where gale winds whipped the Alaska coast that stormy Monday. Maybe it was as far as the timbered and snowcovered mountains which cast up a formidable barrier around Juneau, as though protecting the castle capitol from the invader.

With each passing day the grim reality of what must have happened grows ever larger. The hopes that all may be well, in like measure, grow ever smaller.

In the days of anxiety that have passed since the word first flashed that NICK was missing, there has been time for reflection about this talented and dedicated man who loved politics in a lusty, joyous way—and who pursued public service with an intensity and drive matched by only a few.

Don't think for a minute that very many freshman congressman could have asked for and received campaign support from Majority Leader Boggs. But the fact that the distinguished veteran from Louisiana would come to Alaska for Nick—and here proclaim the House of Representatives as the greatest political body in the world—only proves again what was evident before: Nick Begich's tireless energy, his willingness to work within the staid and venerated congressional traditions, his quick mind and his love of politics and public service (each in the highest sense of the word) had commanded again the attention of respected and powerful leaders throughout the land.

Hale Boggs was one in a growing line of national figures so impressed by Begich that they would come here to campaign in his behalf. These included Rep. John A. Blatnik of Minnesota; former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, again a senator from Nick's home state of Minnesota; Sargent Shriver, the Kennedy family-in-law who is now the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, and Rep. Carl Albert of Oklahoma, now speaker of the U.S. House and a man who was majority leader—like Boggs—when he campaigned for Nick here two years ago.

Nobody would ever accuse Nick Begich of being unwilling to speak. He loved to talk—at two speeds, fast and faster. And he enjoyed telling—as anyone would—about his success in his freshman year in Congress . . . of the native land claims settlement, of the waiver of the Jones Act for the Alaska ferry Wickersham, of his midnight calls to constituents, of his 99-plus per cent record on attendance, of his frequent trips home.

He moved like a whirlwind, dropping papers and documents, his arms loaded like a schoolboy's with books and files. What he couldn't carry, Russ Brown packed along. Let other speakers appear on a panel with some typed remarks or a page full of scribbled notes . . . but not Nick. He would swirl in like the custodian of the Library of Congress, ready to quote chapter and verse, page and paragraph, should the occasion arise.

He gave up teaching to stay in politics and he owned apartment buildings as an investment for his family. Anchorage was his home, but Washington became his natural environment. He took to Congress like a hummingbird to a flowerbed. Politics was his life—with gusto.

And, Mr. Speaker, further indication of the feeling his fellow educators had for Nick Begich is the following poem in tribute to Nick, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," written by Robert Von Houte, executive secretary of the Alaska Education Association and published in the 50th Anniversary Issue, Winter 1972–73, of the Alaska Teacher. The entire issue was dedicated to Nick's memory.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

(By Robert Von Houte)

A man for education is gone
A man for Alaska is lost
A man for the nation is departed
A friend's going leaves us stone-hearted
Everyman's death diminishes me
So the bell tolls for me and thee.

Mr. Speaker, I join in expressing warm appreciation for the life of NICK BEGICH and deep sympathy to NICK's lovely wife and children.

Mr. BLATNIK. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in paying highest tribute to NICK BEGICH, Congressman from Alaska, whose brilliant future in the House was tragically ended when his airplane disappeared in Alaska last fall.

NICK was my friend, respected colleague, and more—he was like my younger brother. He grew up in Eveleth, a town close to my own hometown of Chisholm, on Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range. I watched him grow to manhood—saw boyish idealism become the steely determination to serve his fellow man with his full talents and abilities.

Like everyone who knew him, I was early impressed by NICK's sincerity, his alertness and awareness of what ought to be done—and to his dedication, determination and sense of duty—and his incredible energy.

NICK BEGICH and I were a generation apart in time, but we were friends from the first day we met, and our lives ran a strangely parallel course—but about 20 some years apart.

We were both sons of immigrant parents; our fathers worked in the iron ore mines of the Mesabi Range. NICK and I both worked our way through Minnesota State teachers colleges—I at Winona State and he at St. Cloud State. But it took me 4 years and NICK only 2½ to get a teacher's degree and certificate.

We, then, both taught school for several years—20 some years apart—I, in the thirties, he in the fifties. Likewise, we then started our political careers in our respective States senates again, 22 years apart.

NICK was only 24 when he pulled up stakes and moved to Alaska in 1956, but he was already a veteran of 4 years of high school teaching in Minnesota, and he brought his zeal for education along with him.

He devoted the remaining years of his life to promoting the education of Alaska's youth, both in the school system in Anchorage, and in the State senate.

I hope I may be permitted a few moments of indulging in sentimental reminiscing, for it brings back many memories of close friendships that were brought together a quarter of a century later in time. I was still a schoolteacher in 1940 when I was first elected to the Minnesota State Senate, as Minnesota's youngest State senator. I mention it only because in that same year, Hale Boggs, at the age of 26, was elected to the 77th Congress as the youngest Democrat. NICK BEGICH, at that time, was an 8-year-old elementary school student in Eveleth. Little did any of the three of us realize that while starting at the same time, but widely separated geographically, our lifelines would converge in the Halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., and later end tragically for two of them in our northernmost State of Alaska. Hale Boggs and I then served in World War II, and strangely enough in 1946 he was reelected to Congress by his second district in the city of New Orleans, and I was elected to the 80th Congress for my first term from northeastern Minnesota.

It was 10 years later, in 1956, that NICK BEGICH moved to Alaska where, as I mentioned earlier, he gave such splendid leadership in the field of education both as a teacher, school administrator and later State senator.

NICK was elected to the Alaska State senate in 1962—22 years after Hale Boggs was elected to Congress and I was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1940.

NICK's active mind and his sense of duty and awareness of the great needs to be met attracted him to the political arena—and I encouraged him to enter politics. He made his first run in 1968 and made a creditable showing, but fell short. We encouraged him to continue, somehow feeling how great was his potential for public duty and service to the people.

Senator Hubert Humphrey went up to speak in behalf of NICK. I made two trips to Alaska and finally Speaker Carl Albert gave the final push that helped NICK be elected to the 92d Congress in No-

vember 1970—30 years, almost to the day, that John A. Blatnik was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1940 and Hale Boggs was elected to the U.S. Congress.

NICK was deeply and effectively involved in everything that touched the lives of so many people—and above all, he was always loyal to his friends, and deeply loved his family—Pegge Jendro and their six lovely, bright children, and his dear parents, and two brothers and one sister—all dear friends of mine.

He will be long remembered for his remarkable accomplishments in Washington where, in his first year in Congress, he won passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Act.

He served on the Public Works Committee, which I have the honor to chair; and I have never seen a Congressman more dedicated to his work, both in committee and on the floor; or more determined to represent the people of Alaska, and to make the full Government serve them as he did.

Much, much more could be said of NICK BEGICH's public service, not only to his State but to the Nation, in environmental legislation, consumer protection, civil rights, labor, and a long list of other issues.

Brief as was his term with us here, it was crowded with achievements many of us do not attain in a lifetime.

He is the only freshman ever to serve on the Democratic Study Group Executive Committee, where he added his leadership and commitment to liberal reform.

We here today confidently tell each other that the past is prolog; and for us, at this moment, that statement is true.

For NICK, prolog was everyhing, but he seized the lead from the first parting of the curtain, and played it better than many.

A portion of this stage, the House of Representatives, will remain dark now, as will a part of all of us who were privileged to know him.

NICK BEGICH was an uncommon man, and one of the most promising Congressmen I have ever met. He left us with much of his promise still unrealized.

We take this opportunity to officially commemorate, once again a great man, and through him, the people of Alaska and our many Minnesotans living there, whom he served so well.

We, as well as the people of Alaska who chose him to represent them, have known true greatness; and, having known it, the memory remains vivid.

We will not forget NICK, or his achievements.

The people of Alaska, whose lives he changed materially, will not forget him.

NICK has left us all with a higher standard of expectation, and of performance.

NICK was a splendid man, who truly served his fellowman in every sense of the word—but, above all, he was my friend, as was Hale Boggs and I shall always miss them more deeply than I can ever adequately say.

I shall remember them both always in the words of a long ago poet, as one of those shining young men—"who died in their glory and never will be old."

Mr. BURTON. I would like the gentleman from Minnesota to know that the Congressman from Minnesota (Mr. Blatnik), as NICK told me personally time without number, was the one person and Member of this House that he held dearest in his heart, and his advice and judgment and leadership NICK relied upon the most. I am sure if NICK were with us this evening he would like that to be unalterably written in the history of the Record of this evening.

Mr. Speaker, what can we say to the wife of NICK BEGICH? How can those of us who live by the spoken word possibly speak the depths of our desolation and what she must feel and what we certainly share with her as a result of NICK's not being with us in this Congress this evening?

He was an energetic, bright, concerned, committed and intellectually curious man determined as best he could to right the injustices confronting humanity and proclaiming his responsibility as the sole Member in the House of Representatives representing the State of Alaska but also insisting that he was among other things the ninth Member from the State of Minnesota serving in the House.

As Mrs. Begich knows and as my wife and I solemnly know we loved NICK and we approved of his courage and diligence.

We could never adequately know his contributions to the well-being of his fellow men and women. I must state that, despite the late hour, I think it a remarkable tribute that so many of his colleagues—and they would be here fivefold but for the inordinately late hour—are here tonight to try to, in some measure, express as inadequately as it may be the kinship we feel with you and your children in the loss of this marvelous human being.

Two hundred and eighty-eight days have passed since the tragic news reached us here in Washington of the disappearance of NICK BEGICH and our majority leader, Hale Boggs, on a flight from Anchorage to Juneau, Alaska. There have been days in which all of us, who knew both so well, have had time to measure the full loss this House has sustained by their untimely departure.

The majority leader had flown to Alaska after many long sessions leading to the adjournment of the 92d Congress last year. NICK had invited him to attend two dinners in Anchorage and Juneau and both of them joined in this trip with great fervor and enthusiasm. From reports we have heard of that tremendously successful first dinner at the Anchorage Westward Hotel on Sunday night, October 15, it was an evening long to be remembered. The friendship and camaraderie between these two men spread to the audience and created a radiant effect among the NICK BEGICH supporters gathered to pay respects to Hale and NICK.

Both of them were in their usual good humor and both were engaged in, what was for them, a consuming love—politics. The next morning, October 16, 1972 there was more of this good humor as they departed on a private plane with NICK's special assistant, Russ Brown, for the 700-mile flight to Juneau.

It was typical of NICK's thoughtfulness that he had arranged this flight so that his guest would have a longer time to rest for NICK knew that it had been a long session prior to their departure and an even more tedious trip to Alaska. NICK was used to these weekend sorties to Alaska, 10,000 miles round trip, but for Hale it was a tremendously tiring experience. He was, however, as good as his word and knew NICK was counting on him to be there for the occasion. The commercial flight had departed at 6 a.m. that Monday morning for Juneau and NICK felt that a couple of more hours of sleep would help Hale adjust to the time differences and the trip. It was this kind of thoughtfulness and concern which impressed many of us with NICK as a new Member of the 92d Congress in January 1971.

Born in Eveleth, Minn., of immigrant parents, NICK early in life gained a tremendous respect for government from his parents. Mr. and Mrs. John Begich, still living in Eveleth, came to see their youngest son sworn into the Congress on January 21, 1971. It was a day of unbelievable pride for the Begiches and a day of real achievement for NICK—for this had been a goal NICK had worked for all of his

life. In fact, every step NICK had made in his life seems, in retrospect, to have been a step which brought him closer to that goal as a Member of the Congress. His parents, so proud of their son, knew the work and sacrifice which had gone into NICK's plans. It was a magnificent day for them and for NICK's beautiful wife, Pegge, and their six children. All were there to share the success which they had helped NICK achieve.

NICK was torn between two loves early in life—the love of government and the love of teaching. It was, therefore, a happy combination when he became a student at St. Cloud State College majoring in history, government and education. Typical of NICK's desire to do everything in a hurry and to excel at the same time, he completed a four-year course at St. Cloud in 2½ years and when he graduated cum laude in 1952, just having turned 20 years of age, he was selected to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and had been invited to join two honor societies.

For the next 4 years he taught at St. Cloud High School and it was here that he became more and more active in the Democratic Party. He was selected as the 2d vice president of the Minnesota Young Democrats when, now U.S. Senator Walter Mondale, was elected as the 1st vice president, and he was very active throughout Minnesota on behalf of Senator Hubert Humphrey in his first campaign for reelection in 1954.

Although St. Cloud High School was notable for his first encounter in teaching and politics, it is even more notable as the setting of NICK and Pegge Begich's meeting. Pegge was NICK's student at the high school and it was here the paths of these two remarkable people joined. Pegge graduated in 1956 and NICK headed for Alaska to work for the U.S. Department of Labor that summer and, in the fall, he became Boys' Counselor at Anchorage West High School in Anchorage. Alaska beckoned to NICK as a new frontier where he could really become involved in the political and educational arena as a real pioneer. At Christmas time of that year he went back to Minnesota, married Pegge, and they honeymooned along the Alaska Highway in that late December of 1956. Thus, the NICK and Pegge Begich team began and Alaska gained two of its most ardent and energetic adopted citizens.

From that point on education and politics was the consuming interest of both of them. While NICK's educational career blossomed

from counselor to director of student personnel to principal and then to superintendent of schools in the next 2 years, his political career also made steady progress, culminating with his election to the Alaska State Senate in the same period. His indefatigable industry was as broad as his senatorial district which extended from the Canadian border to the Pribilof Islands, some 1,500 miles east to west, and from the tip of the Aleutian chain to Mount McKinley, another 1,500 miles south to north.

NICK soon became known as "Mr. Education" and it was a title he held throughout his political career, particularly in the rural areas of Alaska. His work in the Alaska State Senate on behalf of educators and education marked him early as a leader. Much of his landmark legislation, passed years ago in Alaska, is just now being introduced in the "lower 48" States. Selected as chairman of the Senate Health, Education and Welfare Committee when he first assumed office in 1963, he remained a member of this important committee for his 8 years in the Alaska Senate. Reapportioned into a smaller area, the city of Anchorage, after his first 4-year term, NICK was reelected resoundingly in 1966 and became minority whip of the Alaska Senate for the next 4 years.

NICK's pride in his wife and six children was well known. It can truly be said that he had no hobbies or other interests except politics and his family. They took every minute of his time and his total dedication was to both of them.

Pegge and NICK soon became favorites here in Washington and they were often in attendance at two or three different evening or weekend events, always representing Alaska in their open and unpretentious way. On those weekends when NICK was flying 5,000 miles off to Alaska and 5,000 miles back on a Sunday night to be here for Monday sessions, Pegge would fill in for him when Alaska needed to be represented. It was a real partnership in every sense of the word and their six remarkable children, ranging in age from 15 years down to 5 years of age, were also participating members in the close-knit family group.

There were many things that could be said about NICK BEGICH. We all knew him for his inexhaustible energy; his outging personality; his skill as a legislator; his devotion to the House of Representatives which he loved so much. He soon became legendary and the halls of the Longworth Building were often danger zones when NICK

came running down the corridor from room 1210 to the subway or up to the stairs to the Interior Committee, or to the Public Works Committee rooms. Indeed, he became known as the Congressman who was everywhere at once, a habit he first developed at St. Cloud State when he oftentimes took more than one class at the same time so he could graduate sooner. This ability to move quickly was a prerequisite for a Congressman from Alaska which is one-fifth the size of the United States for he had to be everywhere and at once there, too.

As chairman of the Democratic Study Group during the 92d Congress, I worked closely with NICK. In addition to all his other duties, he served as vice chairman of the DSG's Indian Education Task Force. NICK was recognized as an effective legislator among his colleagues in the 92d Congress. He was elected as the first freshman representative to serve on the DSG Executive Committee.

To Pegge Begich and those six children; to Mr. and Mrs. Begich and NICK's family in Minnesota; to the staff who worked so closely with him in Washington and in Alaska, and to his many friends in Alaska and Washington—we know that your loss has been a terribly tragic one. For we knew NICK as a man of integrity. We knew him as a man of compassion. We knew him as a man with a deep and inquiring intellect. He was a genuine, though gentle, human being. To have known him was to have touched greatness; and we are the better for it. Unfortunately, we were able to have walked along his pathway for too short a time.

Although Minnesota was his birthplace and Alaska was his home, it was here in Washington as a Member of the 92d Congress, that NICK really found that niche which really fitted his abilities—that of the all-encompassing, all-consuming, and totally dedicated Congressman representing Alaska, which he was for so brief a time.

We shall miss him greatly.

Mr. MOORHEAD of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sorrow about the tragedy to Alaska, to the Congress, and to this great Nation arising from the loss of our beloved colleague, NICK BEGICH.

At a time when certain people are saying that young people should not enter public service, I hope that these magnificent contributions of NICK BEGICH are an inspiring record of idealism, and his outstanding

record of contributions to his beloved State of Alaska will inspire young people to help us to serve our country.

To his courageous wife, Pegge, with whom I spoke very shortly after the report of the loss of the airplane, and to his family, I extend my deepest sympathy. I can only say, may the memory of his inspired life of public service be of some comfort to them.

Mr. HUNGATE. Mr. Speaker:

Somehow life is not what I thought it
and somehow the gold isn't all.
No! There's the land—(Have you seen it?)
It's the cussedest land that I know.
From the big, dizzy mountains that screen it
To the deep, death-like valleys below
Some say God was tired when he made it;
Some say it's a fine land to shun;
Maybe; but there's some as would trade it
For no land on earth—and I'm one.

Today we pay our respects to our late colleague, NICK BEGICH, Alaska's third Congressman since Statehood. This House sustained a great loss with his disappearance on that flight of October 16, 1972. For NICK loved this House and "he took to Congress like a hummingbird to a flowerbed." He was, indeed, a young man who seemed to be on top of everything whether it pertained to Alaska or concerned other issues of national or parochial interest. Not only that, but he seemed to be everywhere.

NICK spent long hours on the floor of this House listening to the debate, meeting other Members and learning every legislative procedure. He spent hundreds of hours in committee sessions and was so skilled in understanding issues and concepts, he was able to get to the core of an issue with ease. NICK believed in talking to other Members to determine their problems, for he knew he would need their equal compassion when it came time for the biggest battle of all, the passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims. His understanding of this House showed his remarkable perception. How well he was able to work within the, sometimes difficult, rules of this House was obvious when, in his first year, he was able to bring about the passage of the Alaska native land claims legislation almost singlehandedly.

Majority Leader Hale Boggs, on the night of October 15 in Anchorage, told those assembled at the Anchorage Westward Hotel to

honor him and NICK, of his first meeting with NICK BEGICH on the floor of the House. NICK had played his role, up to that time, with strategic precision but it was appropriate to approach the leadership about the native land claims bill and so he introduced himself to Hale again. As the majority leader told the story that night, he said that NICK, after appropriate preliminaries, told him that he had "a little bill" he was interested in. After some discussion, Hale asked him what this little bill would cost. NICK became more interested in discussing the merits of the bill and the needs of Alaska and the Alaskan natives. Again, he was asked the cost of the bill and again NICK continued to extoll the merits of the bill. Finally, when pressed with some exasperation about the cost of the bill, NICK casually indicated that it was "only a billion dollars." Hale was so shocked at this price tab of the bill he indicated that from then on he was always a little leery from then on when "this new Congressman from Alaska" approached him.

And NICK did approach him again many times—for assistance in moving the bill through the subcommittee and the full committee, for help in having a rule granted in the House Rules Committee, for placement on the calendar, for assistance in preventing crippling amendments, for debate on the floor and for final passage of the bill. He said on that night in Alaska that "the persistent Member from Alaska would not give up his tenacious hold" and Hale said he was much relieved when the bill passed the House and, later, when the conference committee report won passage in the House.

It was a great tribute to NICK that Hale, one of the most active majority leaders this House has ever had, accepted NICK's invitation to Alaska despite the tremendous workload he had as the Congress proceeded to adjournment. From all reports, NICK stood in good stead with his voters in Alaska, voters he cultivated just as he did the Members of this House, and yet, Hale flew 5,000 miles to be there for that dinner with NICK in Anchorage.

NICK BEGICH is known best for the standards of excellence he set for himself. As a student, teacher, school administrator, State senator and congressman he was constantly in pursuit of excellence. NICK was a teacher and his life was a lesson and an example that will inspire young people in this country for ages to come. He was a member of the national compact on education in 1967. When he was a superintendent of schools, his school system won the Encyclopedia Americana School Library award in competition in the

entire Nation 2 years ago in 1965 and 1966. The night before he met Congressman Boggs in Alaska he received, with 17 members of his family present, the distinguished alumnus award from his alma mater in St. Cloud, before flying off to Alaska early the next morning.

We shall remember NICK BEGICH for his tenacity, yes; we shall remember him for his great achievements, definitely; we shall remember him for his unbelievable ability, most certainly; but, of them all, we will probably remember NICK for his love of family, a love which transcended all others in his life. It was his love for his wife, Pegge, his six marvelous children, Nichelle, Nick, Tom, Mark, Stephanie, and Paul, and his parents, a love which towered above all else in his short but incredibly successful life.

We will miss him; Alaska will miss him; but his family will miss him most. We share their grief at his loss.

There's a land where the mountains are nameless,
And the rivers all run God knows where;
There are lives that are erring and aimless
And deaths that just hang by a hair.
I'll pike to the Yukon again.
I'll fight—and you bet it's no sham-fight:
It's hell!—But I've been there before:
And it's better than this by a damn-sight
So me for the Yukon once more.
It's the great, big, broad land 'way up yonder,
It's the forests where silence has lease:
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder,
It's the stillness that fills me with peace.

NICK BEGICH was indeed a man to match Alaska's towering mountains, may his soul know eternal peace.

Mr. MATSUNAGA. Mr. Speaker, "They said it couldn't be done," but NICK BEGICH undertook the impossible and almost single-handedly obtained passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Act, an act which today stands as a monumental living memorial to NICK BEGICH.

That legislative episode was typical of NICK BEGICH. He set his goals and through hard work and untiring diligence he pursued them. He readily won supporters to his cause by his disarmingly charming ways.

In my home State of Hawaii we would have recognized NICK as one truly and richly endowed with the spirit of Aloha.

By his tragic departure from our midst he left behind him many saddened hearts. Among them I count myself. As a friend, I shed a tear over his loss and wish now to pay tribute to his memory and to extend my heartfelt condolences to his beloved widow, Pegge, and to his children and family. May they find the hope and the courage in his memory to face the future.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, those Members who have spoken before I rise to speak, have spoken much more eloquently than I ever could in summing up those thoughts that come to my mind in thinking of the loss of NICK, but I would like to look at it in just a little different vein for just a few moments.

I concur in all the thoughts that have been expressed by those who spoke before me, and I would like to suggest that there ought to be a feeling among all of us of happiness in realizing that we have been close to a very great man, a very fine man.

We have been touched by his life, and I do not think that touching can ever be taken from us. I believe his family feels the same way, and rightly they could and should, and proudly so.

Mr. Speaker, I say this because of a happiness I feel for NICK for the full and joyous way in which he lived. He spent his life; he did not save it. He gave it for those things he felt were the best for his State and his Nation.

I am happy for having known NICK as a gentleman, a true gentleman and a gentle man. I am happy for my memories of NICK because of the extent to which I was favored with his respect, which he gave sincerely, and because of the extent to which I saw respects given so quickly and earnestly and the heartfelt affection for NICK.

So although I join the others in the comments they have made, I also feel happy for this richness that has come to me in knowing this fine man.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with my fellow Members in paying respect to the memory of our late friend and colleague, NICK BEGICH of Alaska. There are few places in our Nation that are farther from Alaska than my native Florida, but distance is no impediment to my sense of deep personal loss at the

death of an exceptionally able Member of this House and a valued friend.

Although tragedy has cut short what would undoubtedly have been a long and illustrious career, NICK BEGICH left a record of accomplishment remarkable for the short time he labored among us. His stance in Congress was consistently progressive and human. A former educational administrator, he felt a deep personal interest in this area and worked hard in the cause of increased Federal assistance, while at the same time establishing an enviable record by his strong support for legislation in the areas of civil liberties, women's rights and consumer protection. NICK voted his conscience in regard to Vietnam, being consistently opposed to continued American involvement in that tragic conflict, while at the same time voting to insure that the Nation's defenses were maintained at a high level of efficiency.

Notwithstanding his outstanding record on national issues, NICK BEGICH will be remembered as the Representative from Alaska. This is the way he would have wanted it; as our 49th State's only Member in the House of Representatives, NICK strongly felt that his best efforts should be directed towards serving his constituents. How well he succeeded in this.

The Alaska Native land claims bill had languished in Congress 6 years without concrete action before he arrived; NICK went to work on it as soon as he assumed his seat, and, due in large part to his determined action, this historic measure became part of the law of this land. He was an early opponent of the trans-Alaska pipeline, but worked hard to have changes incorporated in the plan which would safeguard the Alaskan environment while at the same time providing the petroleum America so desperately needs and the economic boost his home State required.

NICK BEGICH was a personal friend of mine. When he first came to Congress I worked with him in obtaining his committee assignments and followed his career very closely. He was an outstanding Member and accomplished a tremendous amount of good for his State and Nation during his service in the Congress. I talked with him upon numerous occasions about the many trips he made back to his distant constituency. I know how conscientiously he performed his duties to represent his people—often at a great sacrifice of his own health and his personal comfort.

Last month I flew over a part of Alaska and looked upon its rugged terrain and thought about NICK BEGICH.

His untimely death is a source of deep sorrow to all of us. Both Mrs. Gibbons and I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Pegge and to their fine children.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, it is very easy to say what it was that most impressed you about NICK BEGICH. He was simply irrepressible.

With all due respect to many of my colleagues, there was never much doubt in my mind that NICK BEGICH was the most effective member of his congressional class. The examples of his exuberance are easy to remember. He came to the House and knew exactly which committees he wanted to get, and he got them. He worked tirelessly to pass the Native Claims Act which had been hanging around for years before he got here and he got it. I think the reason he was so effective was because he was so well liked. I do not know of a congressional couple in Washington that was more liked than NICK and Pegge Begich.

Even when you were opposing him on an issue, you liked him. I remember sitting on this floor a few nights before NICK and our fondly remembered colleague Hale Boggs left for Alaska. It was a late night session and a number of us were needling NICK about the Alaskan pipeline. We were having so much fun and NICK was making such a strong defense of his case that I finally interrupted him and told him that he could have probably made a million dollars as a lawyer because he did the best job of defending a bad case of any man I had ever seen.

That is what I will always remember about NICK—simply the fact that you could not get mad at him in an argument and 9 times out of 10 when he was involved in something, you hoped he would win.

He was fair. He was quick. He loved a contest and he loved life. And he so enjoyed himself that he made the jobs and the lives of all of those around him more enjoyable as well. We miss him as much as we were proud to serve with him.

Ms. ABZUG. Mr. Speaker, he came to Congress when I did. I think myself that NICK BEGICH represents that group of people who come to the Congress with a great deal more independence and interest in change and reflection of the reality of our times.

I think everything that has been said here tonight about his career or his careers reflects that.

I think those who think of him tonight and his family, who always have him in their presence, will probably get the greatest comfort out of their knowing of his commitment to change for his State and for his country.

I think his wife Pegge and Hale's wife Lindy, who is with us, will be able in their memories and in the image of the loss of these two men to be able to continue the kind of commitments that these people had.

It is very hard to speak about somebody under such tragic circumstances; it is very hard to make it meaningful. I think the family of NICK BEGICH know themselves how meaningful his life has been. I believe they will continue that meaning in their own lives, and I wish them the very best.

Mr. HOWARD. Mr. Speaker, just a short time ago, it seems, NICK BEGICH became a member of the House Committee on Public Works, and it was no time at all before the rest of us realized there was a unique and valued colleague in our midst, because, as has been mentioned before, he had tremendous enthusiasm and dedication to his work and State.

NICK BEGICH brought this with him from Alaska to the Congress. He was someone who never stopped working for his State.

It was not long thereafter when Mrs. Howard and two of our daughters and I were traveling prior to one of our recesses to Tokyo, Japan, to participate in an interparliamentary conference. We were fortunate to be on the plane for that long flight with NICK and Pegge Begich. That long flight really seemed short after my wife and daughters and I had the benefit of the engaging personality of NICK BEGICH.

After my wife and daughter and I had the benefit of the engaging personality of NICK BEGICH we dropped NICK BEGICH and Pegge off at Anchorage and we went on to Japan. And then the very next day to my surprise—perhaps I should not have been surprised—there in Tokyo was the Representative from Alaska, NICK BEGICH, who had come on his own during a recess to meet and discuss with businessmen efforts that he was making to improve the business situation for his State of Alaska. In that situation, as in many others, he was successful.

During last August our colleague and friend, the gentleman from

Minnesota (Mr. Blatnik), the chairman of the Committee on Public Works, had assigned me to head a special hearing concerning the energy crisis.

And during the several weeks of those hearings it was NICK BEGICH who attended every single committee meeting, who spoke with every witness, and who engaged in conversation with all who were present concerning the values of the resources of his State of Alaska, and how they could not only benefit his State but the needs of all of the people in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, when we in this Chamber consider a way to pay tribute to a colleague very often all we can think of are words. If there is one thing that there is so many, many of in the House of Representatives, it is words, and conversation. And we are now at a time of having heard 12 solid hours of words, so perhaps the greatest tribute that we can pay to a colleague is that when he or she speaks the rest of us listen. Whether it be casual conversation in committee or here in this great Chamber, Mr. Speaker, when NICK BEGICH spoke the rest of the House listened, and that listening was to the benefit of all of us because when NICK did speak he spoke with facts, with determination, with logic, and with enthusiasm. And the result of listening to NICK speak caused things to happen in the Congress and throughout the country which will benefit us in our Nation for years to come.

So, although NICK is gone, we in this Congress and in the country will continue to benefit from the work he did while he was with us, and down through the years this Congress, the State of Alaska, and his people will be better off because everyone had faith in NICK BEGICH as he had faith in his people.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to join in tribute to our distinguished colleague, NICK BEGICH, who was so much like the place from which he came, with so much heritage and hope bound together in this fine blend of a human being.

NICK BEGICH in his short time endeared himself in the House as he did in his State. His services were cut short, but his mark is bold and clear, clearly chiseled in the granite of legislative achievement.

NICK's spirit was of hope for Alaska and hope for America. His spirit continues with his good wife, Pegge, and with his devoted family. He is at our side, and we are at his.

Mr. MAZZOLI. Mr. Speaker, one always has a closer feeling for a classmate than perhaps for other Members of the Chamber with whom one comes in contact, and NICK was in our freshman class in the 92d Congress.

I met NICK early on the very first few days I was here. And later at a soiree at Sargent Shriver's house I had the chance to meet his wife, Pegge, and to continue my conversations with NICK, and to learn about representing Alaska, which is as large as most countries are.

My service in Alaska during my 2 years with the Army was a matter of common conversation with NICK. We very frequently talked about the beautiful scenery around Fort Richardson where his school district was located and where he spent so many years, productive years, of his life.

As it happens, I, myself, happen to be the son of immigrants to America, as was NICK's. I am sure that his parents were made extremely pleased and honored by his distinguished career in public service in America. I share the feeling of those who try to make this country better by reason of our service. I would just simply like to join tonight with all of our colleagues, the distinguished Speaker, the majority leader, and all who have delayed departures for our homes and our families in order to make some small recognition of the service that NICK gave, and of our love for him and our love for Pegge and our love for his family. Certainly we ask for all possible blessings on his family for the future.

Mr. RONCALIO of Wyoming. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to the one person in this House who represented a larger area than I do in the State of Wyoming. Our late beloved colleague, NICK BEGICH, represented an area just about six times that size, 550,000 square miles.

His death in the height of a reelection campaign in October of 1972, was a loss to Alaska, to his colleagues, and to his beloved Nation, and, indeed, to humanity. His memory will remain with the countless numbers of youth he taught and counseled as a teacher and an administrator, by those who supported his years of public service to his State of Alaska, and by all of us in Washington who had the pleasure and good fortune of knowing and working with him in the 92d Congress.

I will always remember my trip to Alaska for the NICK BEGICH tribute. It took place on Sunday afternoon, January 7, of this year, 1973. In a high school auditorium were gathered many hundreds of friends of all ages and from all walks of life to share with Pegge, his young children and his parents, the feeling of deep, personal loss.

NICK and I sat side by side in the Committee on Public Works, and we sat side by side on the Committee on the Interior and on about three subcommittees of each of those two committees, and I also sat beside the late Congressman from Illinois, Mr. Collins, as well.

NICK's dynamism, his sincerity, and his determination to handle the problem of each and every one of his constituents who wrote to him from Alaska impressed me a great deal. I used to watch him come to work with great manila envelopes loaded with correspondence from his constituents, and he would go through each one personally and with a intricate coding system recorded his correspondence. He identified each one with long, long, sometimes handwritten reply to each constituent.

I watched him work on the Alaskan Native claims bill which he steered through the Committee on the Interior with great expertise. I enjoyed his statesmanship, so rarely found in one so young. There was no doubt in my mind that NICK BEGICH would have been around here for a long time.

I think his family, his friends, and his colleagues can take great comfort in knowing he had come a long way already. He was proud of the fact that his fellow Alaskans had elected him to represent their needs here in Washington, and he carried with him and fulfilled his responsibilities greatly.

He was a man of warmth, of compassion, of service to his fellow man. We shall sorely miss him.

Mr. MATHIS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with all of the other Members of the Congress in taking this time to eulogize the memory of our dear friend, NICK BEGICH. NICK and I, Mr. Speaker, were neighbors. We often found ourselves sharing a car coming to work in the morning. I have known, on many occasions, as our friend, the gentleman from Wyoming noted, those tremendous bundles of correspondence, and the tremendous amount of work that he carried home with him.

This was I think indicative of the man. I miss him and miss very much the fellowship we enjoyed. My wife Patricia joins me in wishing his wife Pegge and his children the very best. Let me say that NICK BEGICH was a man just as big as his congressional district.

Mr. MCKAY. Mr. Speaker, as one of the Members of the 92d group I would like to say that there is one responsibility that no man can shirk and that is being what he is. We are each a conglomerate of all those we meet and we are better for having had that association with NICK BEGICH. I served with him in the leadership of the 92d group as we came in. He was a personality, forceful, warm, and magnetic, and we were attracted to him immediately. Then he went on from that point, from that original attraction to hold it and prove it and show its real worth in gold. As he served in that organization his work became evident constantly by his attention to detail and followthrough that is not too often found.

NICK was a close friend and one who was easy to be a friend to because he was a friend. He and I were friends. We rode home from the late hours such as tonight together because we lived in a close area. His wife and mine associated together in the 92d wives group. Our children went to school together. This association will not be forgotten.

I remember and I will not reiterate the other examples that have gone on. I would associate myself with them and acknowledge that they are true.

NICK came to my office one day and said, "Gunn, will you go with me to Alaska?" I said, "I do not know whether I can or not." But one could not turn NICK BEGICH down, so I went to Alaska. I am grateful for that invitation. We went with the Public Works Committee. We went and made stops all the way from Ketchikan to Prudhoe Bay and looked all over Alaska all the way. We held hearings and he set such a pace that it was very difficult to follow.

In fact, that was verified by a statement made by the majority leader who went on that fateful trip with NICK. I rode with Hale Boggs as far as Denver, Colo., on his way to Alaska on that fateful trip. In Denver as we were talking before we each caught our planes, Hale said, "I am tired. I sure hate to go to Alaska but how can you turn down a guy like NICK BEGICH?" He said, "I could not do it. I have got to go." And he went.

In Alaska we visited the capital and the Governor and talked to some of NICK's senators with whom he had labored in that capital city. The virtues that have been expressed here were also expressed there by an older senator who said, "You could always tell that NICK BEGICH knew the facts. You could not pull the wool over his eyes."

He had always read the bills and the reports. He knew where the facts were. That was typical. He was a man noted in education as has already been expressed.

The country has lost a noble soul, an exemplary public servant.

I would like to say to his children: I in my own life, having lost my father in my youth, would like to express to them my sympathy and would like to say to them that there may come a time when they feel a loneliness, when they wish they had that companionship and that reminiscence of their father.

At that point, talk with your mother. Search out those who worked with your father and let them tell you the stories of the greatness of your father. He was a great man, and I can say to you, as was stated by a poet when speaking about a father and about an individual who could be emulated. You could rightly say that if you followed the example of energy, of personality, of zeal, of determination, and if you follow those foot-steps you can proudly say, "I stepped in his steps all the way."

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to add a word to what has been said in addition to my gratitude for everything that has been said, because it has been so well said.

I think perhaps Frank Evans had in mind what I had, and that is that if there was any one quality that NICK brought to us, to this House and therefore to his country, it was a sense of joy in his work and in his mission; a kind of gladness, as if it was the most natural thing to come down here and wrest from 434 other Members the mysterious, difficult answers to the problems of Alaska and the questions he had.

He had a kind of zest for that. I remember best, really, his eyes. He also had a sort of half smile, but it was his eyes; it was his haunting combination of curiosity, insistence, compassion and a kind of belief that the answers that he would get would be the ones he wanted. It was very difficult, really, to look at NICK's eyes and see "Yes" written there and say "No."

It was virtually impossible, and yet he did it all with a kind of natural happiness which is a tremendous credit to a great many people I have never met.

One philosopher has written that every man, every human being is the tip of a pyramid, an invisible pyramid of the hopes, plans, character, blood of many men and women who have gone before and from whom he descends. I do not know those people, but they must have been sturdy and strong, uncommonly wise, great people; for certainly, he was.

So, I join my colleagues in hoping very much that his wife Pegge and his children and family will bear in mind that that is how we will ever think of him.

Mr. DAVIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay a special tribute, because having come in as a Member of the 92d Congress 4 months later than most of my colleagues, one of the first men I got to know was NICK BEGICH. I felt like I got to know him pretty well because he and I shared several hours trying to learn the rules of this House by sitting and observing.

He was a man of love, a man of compassion; but more so he was a man who was loved.

I shall never forget the evening after his legislative victory here on the floor on the Alaska Native Land Claims Act, seeing him in a restaurant with several of his staff and his constituents. I noticed in the eyes of those he represented a look of true admiration, a look of true respect, a look of true gratitude, a look of love.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of the 92d class can stay here many years, but it goes without saying that NICK BEGICH was a leader in this class. Those of us who remain here today, and who perhaps will be here tomorrow, will always remember with the greatest fondness this gentleman from Alaska who came down and in such a brief period had such a great effect on our lives.

To his wife and his family go our deepest sympathies. While we realize that perhaps words are of small comfort we know that their friends share with them this great loss.

In closing let me say that one of my favorite verses from the Bible is in the Book of Micah. It says:

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Mr. Speaker, this was NICK BEGICH. He did justly, he loved mercy, and we know that he will always walk humbly with his God.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting, in a way, that we should be here after midnight paying this tribute to our colleague, NICK BEGICH, because it symbolizes, in a way, the dedication which he brought to his work here in the House of Representatives.

It was my privilege to come to the Congress with NICK as a Member of the 92d Congress. I believe all of us who are in that class recognized him immediately for a person of extraordinary quality. It took only one meeting and one opportunity to talk with NICK for just a few moments to recognize that here was an uncommon person, a person of great capacity and great ability, a person of quality which was unusual, quality which was seldom seen.

He brought a breadth of vision to his work here and to all who had contact with him, a vision for his State and a vision for the Nation, a vision which really matched the breadth of the land he represented here.

He brought a keenness of mind, which I believe was recognized by all of us who had the opportunity to talk with him about problems facing the Nation, for we gained new perception and new understanding from him.

He brought that sense of life which others have referred to. I do not believe there was any one of us who did not welcome the opportunity just to see and talk with NICK, because we walked away from that feeling better than we had felt a few moments before. There was no question about that. He communicated to us the sense of life and of purpose and of joy and a sort of sense of humor and happiness that made one feel the better for being in his presence.

But above all these things I believe all of us perceived in him a person of fundamental decency. There was a great moral strength to NICK BEGICH. There was a great sense of integrity. There was a feeling in anyone who talked with him that this was someone who turned no corner, who cut no edges, who sought to speak plainly and honestly.

And he did it from a sense of values that was rooted in the very best of what this Nation's heritage has come to mean.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the other Members in extending my deepest sympathies to Pegge and to his children. I hope they will take some comfort from the example which he left, from the contributions

which he made, and from the realization that their husband and their father stood as a tower of strength in this Hall and represented to those of us who were privileged to work with him the very finest that can be embodied in a public servant in this Republic.

Mr. JAMES V. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to think of NICK BEGICH and his contribution to life in terms of the love that he expressed in his actions every day of his life. That love was a love of giving.

I remember well a trip he made to Cleveland for the Croatian community, for he was extremely close to the Slavic people, which was his heritage. It was in loving these people that he went to Cleveland to speak to them on the purposes and achievements about which he felt very strongly in this Congress.

I believe it was a love of people and the love of his country that motivated him on that trip with our dear and beloved majority leader, Hale Boggs. It was the love of two men to serve this country that took them on that fateful flight.

I hope that the love that NICK BEGICH had for humanity will be a source of comfort for Pegge and the children. I know that it will be something that I will share always in the memory of a man who loved deeply.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, sitting tonight with my colleagues and listening to the tributes paid to NICK BEGICH, one has a strange feeling of both sadness and, in a way, warmth as various of his colleagues cast in our minds the reflections of his unique character and personality.

The words have gone out tonight to describe him as bright, dynamic, youthful, energetic, open, friendly, and expansive. They mean something to us who knew him, but I believe it must be impossible for one who did not know him to know how those qualities came together to make the person who was NICK BEGICH so unusual and indeed the unique person that he was.

I think back individually on the moments of humor in watching this enormously energetic young Congressman literally achieve miracles in legislative history and yet earnestly plead with us that we had to help him because Alaska only had 1 Representative, while he was proving that he could do the work of 10.

I remember saying to him, seriously, "NICK, what are you going to do in your second term?"

This was a man who won the respect and the admiration, as I think has been demonstrated here tonight so many times with deep affection, of what is considered to be a very difficult jury, his fellow Members of Congress, his fellow Members who shared with him his profession in public life.

NICK had a proud title which only a few States gave to their Representatives; he was not the Representative from the 5th or the 2d or the 22d district; he was "the" Representative of Alaska. And indeed he was. He was a representative of something broader than that. He was a Representative, I think, of the spirit of our country broadly—the youthful dynamic, restless, impatient, and, yes, the wonderfully idealistic spirit that we think of when we think of a great industrialized country such as ours.

It has been said that politics is the science of the highest good, and in a day and time when this profession is much maligned all of us who were his colleagues and who shared with him what we consider a great honor of public life are grateful to him and are grateful to his family for having shared him with us for this short period of time.

We are grateful for our memory of him, and we are grateful for the standard he set, and we feel that in his life and accomplishments there may be others to follow the example he set and who will seek his high ideals and help not only their States and regions as NICK did so well but help our country and the people all around the world who depend on us for achieving a better life and future.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a most profound sense of admiration and a real sense of personal loss that I rise to join my colleagues in tribute to NICK BEGICH.

NICK and I came to the Congress at the same time. We served together in the 92d freshman Democratic caucus. NICK was treasurer of that caucus, and he was proud of that small responsibility. He carried it out with great enthusiasm and absolute perfection.

We worked together in the Committee on Public Works and often walked back and forth to and from the House Chamber to our offices, because his office was just down the hall from mine. We relaxed together after work. We were friends and our wives were friends.

It is striking tonight that the various statements made this evening

by so many people expressed themselves as friends and talked about their personal relationships. Every one is obviously true. Together they set forth a mighty testimonial to a person who was NICK BEGICH.

NICK's devotion to the State of Alaska united us in our support for the State and our support for him. He fought hard for the Indian Claims Act and the Alaska pipeline and had the determination to move this legislation forward as expeditiously as possible for the future of Alaska.

I think it is fitting that this tribute tonight coincides almost to the day with what would obviously be the fulfillment of one of his most hard-fought goals, that is, the passage of the Alaska pipeline bill.

Nobody else in the modern history of Congress has accomplished anything like that much in so short a period of time.

He was a man of unswerving devotion and great energy, a young man of wisdom and thoughtful contemplation. He was a man with the ability to envision new solutions to old problems.

He had a real liking for enlightened Democratic leadership and a very high regard and a well deserved regard for the progressive Democratic leaders who are his friends in the House of Representatives.

While he belongs to history, he was a dedicated Member of Congress, and his many contributions here remain an inspiration to us all and a demonstration of what hard work, enthusiasm, integrity, and optimism can accomplish.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I join in paying tribute to a distinguished and able representative of the State of Alaska and a most able and respected Member of this body.

He is missed by the people of Alaska and the colleagues with whom he served, and among whom he had so many friends. I know that he is missed by his family whom he so much loved. I join not only in paying tribute to NICK BEGICH, but also in expressing condolences to the family that he loved, and that meant so much to him.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I learned a few moments ago of this tribute tonight for NICK BEGICH from our colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HUNGATE). I know the hour is late, and the admonition has been given that in order to have these remarks included in the Record we must conclude this as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have just two items that I want to cover, and to have included in this eulogy.

It was our privilege many times right back by the door to sit and talk with our good friend, NICK BEGICH—and I say good friend because, although we were not freshmen Members of the 92d Congress as he was, but because he was the sort of a person who was so easy to become acquainted with.

As I say, there are two things about this eulogy tonight. One is the fact that at this very late hour, after a long and hard day, and when we are at a half-hour after midnight, that there are this number of Members on the floor who have remained to pay tribute to this colleague, a colleague who represented, it is true, a big State, but he was a big man. And back there in those conversations we had the opportunity to discuss the things that were so uppermost in his mind, and that was the passage of the Alaskan Native Land Claims.

NICK said to me one time:

I hope if you cannot speak for this bill that you will not speak against it.

How could one refuse a request like that? Someone said that you could not refuse NICK BEGICH. We thought so much of him. We miss him. It was the greatest shock of our time to learn the sad news that came to us from Alaska last October.

We all hope and pray that his good widow, Pegge, will be sustained in her bereavement.

Mr. DENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that most of us realize that it is sadness to go to the open grave and look down, but it is faith to look beyond.

I believe that if there is one thing that the gentleman whom we honor tonight left with this body it is the faith that he gave us, the hope that he gave to the people of the wilderness, and the performance that he made in history.

I know that the name BEGICH will follow in the annals of history the word "Alaska," just like the letter "B" follows the letter "A" in the alphabet. It is indelible there, and it will be remembered.

He had courage, honesty, and integrity. We learned to trust him and to know him. I was of his class as a Member of the 92d Congress in the year of his death. One of the moments that I shall never forget was that shortly before we adjourned to go home with our people we

were gathered in the patio at the home of our beloved leader, Hale Boggs, and as we left there that evening our majority leader said to us:

I have but one wish, and that is that we can all meet again.

None of us knew that NICK could not come back or that our leader would not return. And in our infinite wisdom here as a collective body we know not their whereabouts, or whether they are with us and can see us, and know and understand the problems of our time. But tonight we have seen the great orators of our body come into the well, in a Chamber hushed in sadness, knowing that these men are gone.

We know that we will not feel their warm hands and have the benefit of the words of their courage and understanding, but I think also we know that we are all better because we had them for a little while. If lives could be measured in deeds and not years, I could say to the loved ones of NICK BEGICH and Hale Boggs that they lived for hundreds of years, for they did many things for many people. They sought to serve their God through serving others, and it is in this spirit and with this courage and in this faith that I accept the challenge to try to carry on their good works for all mankind.

Mrs. BOGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in joining with my colleagues in all of the beautiful things that have been said about NICK BEGICH and his family.

Imbued with the fervent patriotism of his immigrant parents and determined to express it in an effective manner, NICK BEGICH accomplished more in his short span of life than most men achieve in the proverbial three score years and ten.

His buoyant spirit, keen intelligence and compassionate heart suited him especially to represent the remarkable people of Alaska.

As his parents had inspired him, so he left a beautiful legacy of dedication to God and country and to the betterment of the quality of life for his fellow man to his valiant and beautiful wife, Pegge, and to his splendid children.

I am grateful for the opportunity of knowing firsthand the love and respect which NICK's constituents felt for him and their appreciation of the worth of his public service.

I believe that Hale would join me in offering as consolation to them, to his devoted family and to his good and loyal friends in this House these words of Robert Louis Stevenson:

Every heart that has beat strong and cheerfully has left a hopeful impulse behind it in the world, and bettered the tradition of mankind. And even if death catch people, like an open pitfall, and in mid-career, laying out vast projects, and planning monstrous foundations, flushed with hope, and their mouths full of boastful language, they should be at once tripped up and silenced: is there not something brave and spirited in such a termination? and does not life go down with a better grace, foaming in full body over a precipice, than miserably straggling to an end in sandy deltas? Death has not been suffered to take so much as an illusion from his heart. In the hot fit of life, a tip-toe on the highest point of being, he passes it abound onto the other side . . . trailing with him clouds of glory, this happy starred, full-blooded spirit shoots into the spiritual land.

By Robert Louis Stevenson.

I do know, that they are here with us tonight, and I appreciate so much the opportunity of participating in this small gesture.

Mr. REUSS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to our late colleague, Nick Begich, who disappeared with the late majority leader, Hale Boggs, during an airplane flight from Anchorage to Juneau last October.

Nick's tragic death was a loss to his family, his State, Congress, and the Nation. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with Nick in the 92d Congress knew him to be a gentleman, highly able, and committed to improving life for all Americans. It was for this reason that Nick was elected to the executive committee of the Democratic Study Group, to which no other first-term Congressman ever had been elected.

A member of the House Interior Committee, Nick was largely responsible for passage of the Alaska Native claims legislation in 1971. He helped pull together the disparate views of the Natives, miners, oil interests, and conservationists, and, as a result of his efforts, the final bill was hailed by all parties as a landmark achievement.

Besides his outstanding work in government, Nick worked as an educator in Alaska for 16 years. He is remembered by Alaskans as "Mr. Education," and deserves the honor.

Nick's brave and lovely wife, Pegge, and his six children, Nichelle, Nicholas, Thomas, Mark, Stephanie, and Paul, have my sincerest sympathy.

He shall be missed.

Mr. FUQUA. Mr. Speaker, fate struck down one of the brightest lights with whom I have been associated in my service in the Congress.

NICK BEGICH was a man of brilliance and all who knew him predicted a tremendous career of public service for him.

NICK came here as Alaska's Representative to the 92d Congress. All who met him liked him. They came to know him as a man of ability and integrity.

We were stunned when he was lost on a flight over the State he loved and served so well. With him were three others, including the great Hale Boggs of Louisiana, the majority leader of the House.

I well remember how we received the news in shocked disbelief. We shared with Mrs. Begich the belief that the plane was only down and would shortly be found.

As the days lengthened into weeks, and the weeks into months, hopes began to fail.

NICK's career in the House was short, but it was brilliant. He made his mark and we are all richer for having had the privilege of knowing him.

To his lovely wife and six children, I extend my deepest sympathy. I can only hope they can be comforted in the knowledge that he was truly a great man and that we have lost a very dear friend.

Mr. KOCH. Mr. Speaker, on October 16, 1972, a small, private aircraft was reported missing over Alaska. After months of intensive search, the Cessna was determined to be lost. The public and certainly the Congress were aggrieved by the passing of two of our most diligent Members—Majority Leader Hale Boggs and Alaska's Representative-at-Large, NICK BEGICH.

Mr. BEGICH was elected to the House in 1970 and was, in his first year of service, recognized as a tireless, dedicated worker and one of the finest among the freshman legislators in the 92d Congress. His industrious service on the Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs earned him recognition as an authority on matters concerning Indian Affairs, National Parks and Public Lands. He led the floor fight which resulted in the passage of his bill, the Native Claims Settlement Act. He also played a major role in the passage of other important legislation for Alaska including the Fairbanks flood control project. Representative BEGICH will surely be missed.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our former colleague, the late NICK BEGICH of Alaska, whose service in this body was ended so abruptly by the tragic accident which claimed his life, and that of the late majority leader, Hale Boggs.

Death at any age, at any stage in an individual's professional career, or at any point in an individual's personal development is difficult enough to cope with. It reaches tragic dimensions when one is struck down, as was NICK BEGICH, early in life and with his career just opening up before him. NICK was just 40 years old, finishing out his first term in this body, when he lost his life on that ill-fated airplane flight from Anchorage to Juneau.

Those of us who had the privilege of serving in the House of Representatives with NICK BEGICH will remember him as one who appeared on the scene only briefly, but who nonetheless left his mark on this institution, and on the cause of representative government to which this body is so deeply committed.

NICK BEGICH was a dedicated, able, and compassionate legislator, Mr. Speaker, and all of us who had the opportunity to work with him miss his counsel and his friendship.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my distinguished colleagues, Mr. Culver and Mr. Burton, in honoring the late Representative NICHOLAS BEGICH, I commend the gentleman in the well for taking the special order.

Mr. Speaker as a freshman Congressman from the State of Alaska, NICK BEGICH impressed me as I am sure he impressed us all, with his intelligence, his sincerity and his drive. I will never forget how deeply committed he was, to people and to his constituents. He was concerned and dedicated to the poor, the unfed, the ill-clothed and the uneducated.

It was because of his limitless concern and dedication, his personality, that NICK BEGICH commanded the kind of respect and admiration from his colleagues that he possessed.

With the loss of NICK BEGICH the House has lost one of those rare voices that could rise above the often loud and anguished cries of conflicting issues and divergent questions. He spoke softly, clearly and with humanity, regardless of the issue.

When NICK spoke, he spoke from the heart, you listened, you understood.

I fully comprehend and share the sense of grief and deep personal loss that his family and all of us here on the Hill are experiencing at this hour.

Mr. CARNEY of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the memory of our late colleague, NICK BEGICH, the Congressman from Alaska. My words today are tinged by great sorrow and immense pride. Sorrow that the life of one so young should be snuffed out, sorrow that our Nation will miss the presence of a Member of Congress who had so much to give in service to his State and country, sorrow for NICK's brave wife, Pegge, and her children. But even in a time of sadness, I am proud of this man, NICK BEGICH. For in the brief span of his legislative career, he compiled a record of achievement which would fill the lifetime of a lesser person.

NICK was not a native son of Alaska, but this did not dim his love for our 49th State and its people. He was born, raised and educated in Minnesota, where he compiled a distinguished academic record. In 1956, he followed the course of many courageous young men and resettled in Anchorage, where he became a guidance counselor and later director of student personnel in the Anchorage School District. In 1962, NICK was elected to the Alaska State Senate, where he was selected as chairman of the Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. During his 8 years in the State senate, he labored tirelessly in behalf of Alaska's schoolchildren and teachers. During this busy time he also served with distinction as superintendent of schools in Fort Richardson and as an instructor at the University of Alaska.

NICK BEGICH came to Washington as a freshman Congressman in January 1971, and even during his single term in the House of Representatives he compiled an enviable record of accomplishment. He made his mark early as a conscientious and progressive legislator, with an impressive attendance and voting record of 99 percent in the House, while at the same time carrying out duties as a member of both the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee on Public Works.

Congressman BEGICH maintained a farsighted and liberal record in both domestic and foreign matters. He voted his conscience in opposing U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, while lending voice to those

of his fellow Members who had a deep and abiding concern for the environment of our Nation. He consistently supported increased Federal aid to education as well as progressive legislation in the fields of civil rights, consumer protection and labor relations.

NICK BEGICH was active and committed on national issues, but he concentrated his efforts on matters that pertained most directly to his constituents. He felt a special obligation to them, and, as he put it in his own words:

> I believe, that with only one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, Alaska should expect its Congressman to do the essential, practical jobs as an absolute first priority, using every bit of energy at his disposal.

It was this philosophy that motivated NICK BEGICH in working for his State and Nation when he helped bring about the passage of the Alaska Native Lands Claims Settlement Act in 1971. Although this worthy legislation had been actively considered by Congress for more than 6 years, it was due in large part to his active and energetic support that final action was taken, and that this vital bill became the law of the land, recognizing the long-standing claims of Alaska's natives.

Now he has passed from this life, leaving behind him a legacy which will give honor to his name for years to come. The people of Alaska have lost a great friend and a fearless defender, the Congress has lost an outstanding legislator, his family has lost a loving husband and father. NICK BEGICH was a rare and good man; his loss will be felt by us all.

Ms. ABZUG. Mr. Speaker, though nearly a year has elapsed since his tragic death, I wish to pay tribute today to the Honorable NICK BEGICH of Alaska. NICK served on the Alaska State Senate for two consecutive terms prior to being elected to the 92d Congress in 1970. He served ably and conscientiously from then until his tragic disappearance last October with the late majority leader, Hale Boggs.

As a fellow member of the Public Works Committee, I know that NICK was a hard-working and dedicated Member of Congress. He was a leader in the struggle of native Americans for social justice and introduced legislation providing for this. As the recipient of the 1965 NAACP Human Rights Award, NICK BEGICH was truly a man of conscience and compassion, especially for the socially and economically oppressed. A former school superintendent and longtime edu-

ator, NICK was also sensitive to the growing educational needs of this Nation.

The country has lost not only an outstanding public servant, but also a good and decent man. I am happy that his colleagues have set aside this time to pay tribute to his life and social achievements, indeed worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. BROYHILL of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, seldom in the long history of the House of Representatives have our collective emotions been so strained as during the days of anxiety over the fate of two of our colleagues who were lost in the frozen mystery of Alaska.

When the curtain of certainty fell—as certain as anything can be in the massive backlands of our 49th State—my thoughts turned to the man who served with us from there—his contributions to humanity—his service to his country, rendered in the short span of time NICK BEGICH was our colleague.

NICK BEGICH served within a scope of interests almost as large as the State he represented—human rights, education, business, and national government. He served with devotion and compassion, with pride and affection. He served well and humbly those he represented, and he will not be forgotten as a pioneer of progress in behalf of his land, his State, his people—Alaskans who will miss him and remember him as we do here in this House.

NICHOLAS BEGICH's memory will nurture our own hope and courage, and the hope and courage of his wife and six children in the days ahead.

Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my distinguished colleagues for providing us with this opportunity to pay our respects to the late Congressman NICK BEGICH of Alaska.

Although NICK BEGICH's time of service here in the House was not of heroic proportions in terms of length, it was heroic in terms of the contributions he made.

No newcomer to public service or elective office, having served 8 years in the Alaska State Senate, he quickly learned the ropes here in the House.

NICK BEGICH was in the unique position, shared by only five other Congressmen, of representing all of the residents of his home State. And represent them all, he did. He will, undoubtedly, be well remembered for his work for the Alaskan Indians.

Conservation of the bountiful natural resources of his beautiful State was one of NICK BEGICH's prime concerns. All of us who, too, love the rugged State miss his knowledge and wisdom in that area.

His lovely family, along with the family of the late distinguished Majority Leader Hale Boggs, have been through a long, heart-rending ordeal. All of us here shared in the agony of the extended search for the aircraft carrying these two fine men; we shared in the grief at their loss; and today we again share with them—this time in remembering NICK BEGICH, the Congressman, public servant, husband and father.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues in expressing my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Pegge Begich and the six Begich children.

Mr. ADDABBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleagues to pay tribute to our former colleague, the late NICK BEGICH of Alaska, and to state once again our deep sorrow at his untimely passing.

In his all-too-brief lifespan, NICK BEGICH accomplished more than many men ever achieve in a long lifetime. Perhaps as typical of the affection and respect his fellow citizens in Alaska afforded him was their electing him to represent them in the U.S. Congress. By doing so, his friends and neighbors expressed very simply their faith and trust in him.

Insofar as I know, no person who ever placed his faith and trust in NICK BEGICH ever had reason to regret it. Those of us who labored with him in the House of Representatives found him to be astute, levelheaded, and altogether trustworthy. We soon learned to know how great a potential existed inside this quiet, unassuming young man. That that potential was snuffed out so early in his lifetime is as great a loss to the Nation as it is for his family and his friends in his beloved Alaska, and here in the Nation's Capital.

But a nation can survive the death of a statesman. What we who knew him well mourn most of all is the loss of a good man, a good friend. NICK and Pegge Begich enriched the lives of all who came to know them and their delightful children. Theirs was a happy marriage, filled with good humor and high spirits, and they infected all who came their way with happiness.

In his first year of service in this House, NICK and Pegge Begich came to visit in my home city of New York during the congressional New York trip. They enjoyed themselves immensely, and before they left, NICK promised us and his wife that when it came time for the next trip they would bring their children with them.

Two months ago, we held that trip. And with the courage and the sturdy character that she possesses, Pegge Begich made good that promise for her children. NICK BEGICH had every reason to be proud of his wife and his children, and nothing else could typify that pride more than the moral stamina and loyalty to their departed father and husband than his family displayed on that trip.

And so we have all lost much with this early passing of NICK BEGICH, and it can never be replaced.

Too soon was he taken away from us and long will we suffer that loss.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues today in honoring the late Representative from Alaska, NICK BEGICH.

NICK came to Congress in 1971 with much diverse experience. He had been a builder, an educator, and a legislator. NICK made full use of all his experience and his enormous capabilities and became one of our hardest working Members.

In the course of his brief 2-year stay in the House, NICK BEGICH and I worked together on a number of issues, including consumer affairs, congressional reform, and an end to the Indochina war. I always found him to be intelligent and sincere, a man with much to offer this House.

NICK BEGICH was a man of principle, yet a man who knew when to compromise. He worked hard in the interests of Alaskans and in the interest of all Americans. This body and this country need more men like NICK BEGICH and he will be sorely missed.

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, NICK BEGICH was a man destined to make a lasting mark in the Congress of the United States. That he was campaigning to be returned to the job which he had come to love so much is a compounding irony of his tragedy. In addition to solid demonstrations of his future legislative potential, NICH BEGICH was also an open and unstinting supporter of his party. The fact that he was accompanied by his party's majority leader on his ill-fated

campaign flight last October is evidence of the esteem the Democratic leadership had for him. The people of Alaska in particular and the people of the United States in general have suffered the loss of a potentially strong and effective leader in the Congress. We are all the less for it.

Mr. LEGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the start of each new Congress witnesses the appearance of a number of new, often young, Congressmen. The ways of the House of Representatives are such that it is rarely possible for these newcomers to distinguish themselves in their first, or even second terms. Nevertheless, many exhibit traits and abilities which mark them as men of promise—as legislators who, if they remain in the body, will eventually rise to positions of leadership and respect. Some stay and fulfill this promise. Some, for personal reasons or by virtue of the wishes of their constituency, leave soon after they arrive. And, in a few, tragic cases, a newcomer is struck down before he has the opportunity to prove the promise he has shown. Such was the case with NICK BEGICH, the Representative from Alaska during the 92d Congress, who with Hale Boggs, the Representative from Louisiana, was reported missing last October 15, when a plane carrying them from Anchorage to Juneau disappeared.

NICK BEGICH came to Washington from a career in Alaska as a businessman and educator. His prime interests however always seem to have been in the area of public service. From 1962 to 1968, he served as superintendent of schools for the Fort Richardson district. From 1964 until his election to Congress, he held a seat in the Alaska State Senate. Yet these offices only reflect a part of NICK BEGICH's involvement in public affairs, an involvement that was recognized in the bestowal of the VFW Community Service Award in 1963, and the NAACP Human Rights Award in 1964.

As a Member of the 92d Congress, Representative BEGICH continued to render admirable service to his State, sitting on the Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs and the Committee for Public Works. He succeeded in securing funding for much-needed public works projects, and measures aiding and encouraging the development of various Alaskan industries. In addition, he pursued an active role in issues of broader national significance, sponsoring legislation dealing with defense, justice, and medicare, among other things.

During his brief tenure in the House of Representatives, NICK BEGICH showed himself to be a man of talent and ability, of industry and integrity, of dedication and purpose, in short, a legislator of great promise. His loss is to be greatly regretted. It is a loss not only to the State of Alaska, but also to the Congress and the country. Men such as BEGICK are the life-blood of our political system, the sources of its vitality. I am sure I speak for all the Members of this body when I say we deeply mourn NICK BEGICH, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Pegge, and six children.

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, rarely have this House and the people of the United States suffered such a grievous loss as we did in the accident in which my friend and colleague, the late NICK BEGICH of Alaska, lost his life.

NICK BEGICH died in service to his country. He was seeking reelection so he could continue pursuing those ideals and objectives to which he had dedicated his public service. He faced an exceedingly difficult task in reaching the people of the immense State of Alaska to exchange views, and the hazards of transportation involved were revealed all too clearly in the plane loss which robbed us of his dedicated commitment.

NICK was eager to work for and help his constituents. He was a crusader, ambitious to resolve the problems faced by the people of Alaska. As their lone U.S. Representative, he toiled long hours in pursuit of the far-sighted governmental programs necessary to continue the evolution of this great State from primitive wilderness to full participation in the economic destiny of our country.

He was energetic, resourceful, and wonderfully human. One of NICK's geniuses was his ability to get along with all those he met, whether humble or mighty. By his perseverance and sheer ability, he was able to accomplish many deeds in his short congressional career.

We had in common the fact that both of us represented States separated from what Alaskans call the "lower 48." Because Alaska and Hawaii shared many of the same kinds of problems, often NICK and I worked together on legislation to meet some mutual need of our respective States. I had many occasions to learn of his effectiveness as a legislator, as well as to know his cheerful personal camaraderie.

NICK performed with skill and distinction as a Representative able to enlist the Government in transforming the challenges of Alaska to solutions. Yet he was much more than this. He also had a keen perspective on his responsibilities as a national legislator, and he followed policies of great wisdom to benefit all the people of our country. He was imaginative and compassionate in seeking to meet the needs of the people, rather than powerful vested interests. He was a skillful lobbyist for the many in little-noticed areas where all too often the special interests of a few prevail.

Still young, NICK may have been destined for roles of even greater leadership had not the hand of fate dealt a tragic end. He was a truly great American and a splendid Representative of Alaska. We shall sorely miss NICK BEGICH.

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to those paying tribute to our friend and former colleague, the late NICK BEGICH. His disappearance and untimely death last year was indeed a shock.

During his brief career in Congress, NICK BEGICH displayed an avid interest in his work and a great dedication to the interests of the people of his district. He will long be remembered as one of our outstanding Congressmen—one who brought to his office a wisdom and judgement that distinguished his service in the House of Representatives.

The premature loss of this young, capable and dedicated legislator was, and continues to be, deeply felt by us all.

Mr. TIERNAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our colleague and friend, the late NICK BEGICH.

NICK BEGICH was an amazing man. With the support and assistance of his capable wife and a hard-working staff he was able to accomplish a great deal more than any other freshman Congressman in recent history.

When NICK came to Congress the Alaska Land Claims was a child of congressional neglect. NICK quickly sized up the situation and began to plan the brilliant strategy which resulted in the passage of the Land Claims Act during his first term in office.

NICK was able to carry through his plan because he was willing to work hard for his constituents and because of his ability to win the respect of the House membership. Few Congressmen have shown

the ability to establish a coalition of such varied interests as NICK was able to do. In addition to the House leadership, NICK befriended many leading conservationists and used this friendship as an aid to insure immediate consideration of the Land Claims Act.

I was saddened to learn of his untimely death. The country lost a good leader and the people of Alaska lost a fine Representative. His passing is a loss to us all.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring our late friend, NICK BEGICH, Representative from Alaska.

NICK served with us in Congress only a short time, but in that period, he made his presence known and felt. His work on the Alaskan Native Land Claims bill, which he considered his biggest accomplishment, resulted in the passage of legislation alloting 40 million acres to the natives. Before NICK arrived and applied the pressure, the bill had been stalled in committee.

Political service filled most of NICK's time during the latter part of his life, when he served as an Alaskan State Senator and then as U.S. Representative. But during his political career, he did not forget the problems of American education with which he dealt during his years as a high school teacher in his home State of Minnesota, as principal and later as superintendent of schools in Fort Richardson, Alaska, and as a part-time instructor at the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

NICK voted against bills to delete aid to higher education and ethnic studies programs, and cosponsored legislation to assist the States in equalizing the quality of elementary and secondary education.

The gratitude of NICK's constituency for the concern he showed them was evident in their vote to reelect him last November when his plane was feared lost.

Although the shock of NICK's death has passed, the void it left for his family and friends will not go as quickly. The sharp edges of emptiness can perhaps be softened by the memories of the work NICK did and the knowledge that he will not be forgotten.

Like the Apostle Paul, NICK would accept death as a new beginning rather than as an end, I believe, Paul wrote:

> If it is to be life in the flesh that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

Today I remember NICK with a touch of sadness because he is gone, but also with joy because he was with us.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, NICK BEGICH, so tragically lost last fall in the Alaska he loved, was my friend in this Chamber and out.

He and I had our Washington homes in the same community. I knew his fine wife and their children. NICK and I worshipped at the same church. I have felt a deep personal loss since he is no longer among us.

Although NICK was serving his first term in the House, he already had earned the respect and good will of his colleagues. We miss him here and I, like others, will long remember him.

Mr. VAN DEERLIN. Mr. Speaker, I had just begun the first day of fall campaigning at the gates of a San Diego industrial plant when I learned of the Alaskan air tragedy involving our majority leader and the man whose memory we honor this evening, NICK BEGICH.

That news added to the bleakness of a rainy October dawn. It signaled the loss not only of valued friends, but of a brand of leadership our Nation and our party can ill afford to give up.

Few first-year Members of Congress had left so imposing a mark as the youthful BEGICH. Here were the breadth of vision and, equally important, the vitality needed to represent a vast, emerging frontier State. We, of the west coast, think it a drain on our energies to move in comfort by airliner between Washington and the home district. How much greater the physical dedication to serving an area it takes twice as long to reach, and which itself spreads across 3 times the land space of California.

NICK BEGICH never felt self-pity on this account—indeed, he relished the prodigious work, accompanied by the lost sleep that goes with the job for a "gentleman from Alaska."

Those who served with him will long remember NICK.

Mr. PODELL. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House, we are always saddened by the death of one of our colleagues. But the tragedy is particularly painful in the case of NICK BEGICH, because he was so young and because he had such a bright future ahead of him.

NICK was a worker and a leader in everything he did. As a businessman, he built and managed apartment houses in Anchorage. As an educator, he served as a principal and later as superintendent of schools in Fort Richardson, and lectured in American history and government at the University of Alaska for 12 years. As a legislator, he was chosen by his Democratic colleagues in the State senate as minority whip. As a community leader, he was honored for his work in promoting human rights.

These were some of the accomplishments that NICK brought to the House of Representatives in 1971. But at age 40, before the completion of his first term, a tragic accident took his life. We mourn him not only for what he was, but for what he would have become. For this was a young man with courage and ideals, who surely would have become an important and influential Member of the House.

I join with my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathy to Pegge Begich and her children. Our sense of loss is as great as theirs. My greatest hope is that we will see more men like NICK BEGICH in the House of Representatives.

Mr. BRASCO. Mr. Speaker, NICK BEGICH gave a lot of himself to this Congress. He worked hard, taking his responsibilities with seriousness and devoting that extra effort to the people of his district and the welfare of the Nation.

I had an opportunity to work with him rather closely over some period of time. Many times we hear that Members are parochial in their interests, lacking both time and desire to involve themselves in matters immediately outside of their intimate interests. NICK BEGICH was an honorable exception to that claim.

Not too long ago a matter of great importance to my State and district came before the Congress. It revolved around Gateway National Park and Recreation Area. In New York, especially in the area of New York City, recreation space is at an absolute premium. What was incorporated in Gateway was essential, and we Members from that part of the country had to educate many other Members of the House as to the need for this facility.

I spoke to NICK, who served on the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and who represented a district a continent away. He was interested, concerned and willing to help.

He took invaluable time and interested himself in our situation, lending unique talent and concern to our cumulative effort. That Gateway National Park and Recreation Area is now a reality to millions of people, is in large part due to the efforts of NICK BEGICH.

We all know that he worked on behalf of his constituents and State with vigor, compassion, and honesty. In the too short time he served here, NICK left an impressive mark as a legislator, a friend, and a man.

Taken so tragically from us in the prime of his life, he has been missed keenly and will not be forgotten. To his wife and children I extend the sincere condolences at this time.

His State can be proud of him. This Congress can be proud of him. We shall continue to miss his presence and contributions.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, NICK BEGICH was a rare individual. He was a person of intellectual force and boundless energy. He was a person of genuine sincerity and modesty. Yet, at the same time, he had the spark of a true leader, the ability to draw men to him and to his vision.

One of the most gratifying aspects of my first term in Congress was working with NICK as a fellow first termer. He took a leading role in organizing the 92d Congress Democratic Congressional Club. He was held in such warm regard and sincere respect that he was made an officer of that group. For the same reasons he was also made the "freshman" representative on the steering committee of the Democratic Study Group.

NICK and I shared the same viewpoint on all of the key issues that came before the 92d Congress. But even when we differed on issues, as we did on some, he had the knack of arguing an issue without ever irritating or seeming to be irritated. He was a master of marshaling the facts and presenting them with clarity and persuasiveness. He relied on this rather than on emotionalism or other unworthy means of persuasion.

NICK was, as far as I can determine, universally liked by the Members of the House. To me he was a very good friend. It seemed impossible for a long time to believe that he had been suddenly taken from us.

In a very true sense his spirit and his vision for Alaska and for the country and the memory of his vital personality live and will continue

to live among all of us who were so fortunate as to know and work with him.

Mr. DANIELSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to pay tribute to our late colleague, NICK BEGICH of Alaska. NICK BEGICH, one who devoted himself totally and with unlimited energy to working for the benefit of his fellow human beings, was an extraordinary man. As a teacher, boys' counselor, principal, and superintendent of schools, NICK gave freely of himself, as not many men are able to do. When he became a State legislator in 1963, he contributed the same efforts to his work as a public servant that he had exerted, and continued to exert, as an educator. The extent and effectiveness of his dedicated service are evidenced by the awards he received: the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, St. Cloud State College; the Human Rights Award, NAACP; the VFW Community Service Award; the PTA Life Membership Award; Honorary Membership in the Filipino Community of Alaska, the Alaska branch of the American Federation of Government Employees, and the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

As one of my fellow freshmen in the 92d Congress, NICK tackled the monumental task of being the sole Representative from the young State of Alaska, which has so many needs and problems far different than those we encounter in the mainland States. Armed with a strong educational background in political science and with many years of experience in the Alaska State Senate, Congressman BEGICH served his State and his Nation with remarkable vigor and talent for almost 2 years. I only regret, as I know we all regret, that he was taken from us before he had the chance to make the contributions to our society which he so earnestly strived to make, and which would have made our world a better place for all of us.

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, I join today in paying tribute to our friend and colleague, the late NICK BEGICH.

As the at-large Representative from Alaska and during his service in the House, before his tragic death, NICK quickly earned the esteem and respect of his colleagues. He was a fine man who gave untiringly and unselfishly of himself in dedicated service to the people of Alaska and our Nation.

Only 40 years old at the time of his disappearance, NICK brought to the House of Representatives experience as an educator, business-

man and as a member of the Alaskan State Senate. His interest in and knowledge of the problems of the Indians of Alaska, the national parks and public lands was of particular value to him and to the House Committees on Public Works and Interior and Insular Affairs upon which he served.

NICK's efforts in support of the Native Claims Settlement Act is only one example of his admirable and dedicated service on behalf of the native people of the State of Alaska. He was an able Representative and will be missed by the people of Alaska and his colleagues in the House of Representatives.

To his wife, his children and other members of his family, Mrs. Flynt and I extend our condolences and heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. DRINAN. Mr. Speaker, I admired my friend NICK BEGICH, who came to Congress with me, for many personal and professional reasons.

The personal reasons why I lament the tragic death of NICK BEGICH are many. But the personal association with NICK BEGICH which I shall cherish the most occurred on the evening of Sunday, March 5, 1971, when NICK BEGICH and his lovely wife Pegge came to a reception on my behalf amidst a wild New England snowstorm. It was on that evening that I learned from the address of my fellow freshman Congressman about the intensity of his idealistic and moral purposes in coming to the Congress. Representative BEGICH spoke passionately about the necessity of reordering our priorities, of diminishing the enormous military budget and of enacting legislation which would bring adequate education and health benefits to all of the citizens of America.

I worked closely with NICK BEGICH on a number of issues. I joined him in his opposition to the detonation of the nuclear blast off the coast of Alaska in the project called Cannikin. I sought and followed his counsel with regard to the historic bill enacted in the 92d Congress which after many decades finally settled the claims of the native Alaskans. Congressman BEGICH was a conferee on that landmark legislation and in that capacity spent what seemed to be countless days in settling long disputed points between the Senate and House versions of a monumental bill designed to finalize decisions to protect the human, the economic and the environmental interests of the people of Alaska.

NICK BEGICH had a distinguished career even before becoming a Member of the 92d Congress. He obtained his M.A. in educational administration and political science from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He was finishing his doctorate work at the University of Colorado when he went to Alaska with his new bride in 1956 to become an instructor at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. During the years that followed NICK BEGICH was a principal of a high school for 4 years, the superintendent of schools for 5 years in Fort Richardson and a member of the Alaska State Senate from 1963–71. He served as minority whip of the State senate in the years 1967–71.

NICK BEGICH came to the Congress after his election on November 3, 1970, because of his profound devotion to the State and the people of Alaska. He was happiest when he could inform his colleagues in the Congress about the problems and the fantastic potential of his adopted State. He took the long and immensely tiring trip to Alaska as often as he could.

It was a tragedy beyond description for the State of Alaska, for the Congress of the United States and for all of us that NICK BEGICH died tragically at the age of 40. I shall always be indebted to him and devoted to all of the admirable ideals to which he devoted the work of his lifetime. Our prayerful and compassionate feeling goes to NICK BEGICH's wife Pegge and to his six children, Nichelle, Nicholas, Thomas, Mark, Stephanie, and Paul.

The memory of Congressman NICK BEGICH will always be held in everlasting benediction by those who knew him and loved him.

Mr. REES. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to convey the profound feelings one has over the tragic and premature death of our colleague, NICK BEGICH.

I could insert reams of material concerning NICK's leadership and dedication to service both in the Alaska Legislature and as a Member of Congress and tell of NICK's wife and young family which he has left behind. All deserve mention.

The tragedy is that a rising young Congressman was killed in an airplane crash trying to fulfill his duties in his own State and at the same time be an effective legislator in the House of Representatives. We will never know what NICK's potential might have given our country.

But even in the short time NICK was with us as a Member, he gave us all a heightened desire to make the system work and bring new

ideas and concepts into the staid Halls of Congress. We can consider ourselves fortunate we knew NICK and worked with him. Some of his frontier spirit rubbed off on many of us who had thought the frontier was no more.

Mr. JOHNSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and pride that I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our former colleague, the late NICK BEGICH of Alaska, whose career was snuffed out last October when the plane in which he was riding with our late majority leader, Hale Boggs, disappeared.

Shortly after NICK came to Congress I had a very personal acquaintance with him. After arriving in Washington I had the pleasure and privilege of serving with him on the Committee on Public Works and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, as well as in our deliberations on important legislation in the Halls of Congress. I was also privileged to know him socially and found him to be an intelligent, responsive Representative of the great State of Alaska.

I found him to be a very able legislator, a man who represented his State and his people in an outstanding, dedicated manner. I feel that he would have had a long and brilliant career in the Congress had he not lost his life so tragically.

Mrs. Johnson joins me in extending deepest sympathy to his beloved wife and the members of his family, who suffered a great personal loss.

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my profound sorrow over the loss of our colleague from Alaska, NICK BEGICH. The circumstances surrounding his untimely death are familiar to everyone. It was indeed a tragic loss not only for his wife Pegge and their six children, but also for his fellow Members of Congress and the Nation.

NICK served his State well and left a record of which he and any of us can be proud. His near-perfect record of attendance attests to his dedication. He was always willing to devote his energies to fighting for legislation on issues in which he deeply believed. NICK was in the forefront when it came to civil rights, education, the environment, and ending American involvement in Southeast Asia. Words seem inadequate in trying to assess his contributions to his State and to his country.

In his short time on Capitol Hill, NICK BEGICH contributed a great deal. We will never know how far he might have gone or what great deeds he might have accomplished had his life not ended so suddenly. One thing is certain—I will miss him and treasure his memory always.

Mr. MOORHEAD of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend and colleague, NICK BEGICH of Alaska.

When NICK came to Congress in 1971 he already had a long record of public service for his adopted State. He served for 8 years in the Alaska State Senate and for his hard work as chairman of the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee he earned the title of "Mr. Education." Here in the Congress we knew him as a dedicated and tireless legislator. During the 92d Congress NICK was a member of two committees and eight subcommittees, truly an extraordinary workload for a freshman Representative. Many of us knew him best for his outstanding contributions to the Democratic Study Group where he served as the first freshman member of the executive committee.

NICK BEGICH was on the threshold of a great career in public service. He accomplished more at the age of 38 than most men do in a lifetime and he was surely on the way to a future full of exemplary service to his State and his country.

Tragically NICK BEGICH was not given the chance to fulfill his great promise. All of us on the Hill feel the loss of his energy and ability, but more than that, we miss him as a friend, I hope that his wife and six children can find some consolation in happy memories of their husband and father.

Mr. WOLFF. Mr. Speaker, it is never a happy occasion when we set aside time to eulogize our colleagues. But there is comfort in cataloging the accomplishments of long lives well spent, lives in which promise was fulfilled.

The tragedy of NICK BEGICH's disappearance leaves no such comfort. He has been denied fulfillment of his promise. He accomplished much, though a young man, and was on his way to greater achievements. He was here just a short time, but it was evident his presence was a positive driving force. His compassion and commonsense as well as his breadth of knowledge were always productive in debate.

Representing the State of Alaska is not an easy task, for its problems and needs are unique in this Nation. Like so many Alaskans, Congressman BEGICH was born elsewhere, but once settled in, he came to love and revere the beauty and splendor of his State. He was proud to represent Alaska and spoke forcefully in its favor and for its people. Alaska and the Nation were well served by his presence in this Chamber.

My sympathies and thoughts are with his wife, Pegge, and their six children, and I share their grief. We miss NICK BEGICH as a Member of this body, and we miss him as well as a good human being and a fine man.

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues who have gathered here today to pay tribute to our distinguished friend and colleague, NICK BEGICH, and to express profound sorrow for his untimely death.

NICK was not only an outstanding person in private life, he was also a dedicated statesman for he was responsive to the needs of the people. His sensitivity and understanding drew the respect of all of those who knew him. It is unfortunate that NICK was unable to finish his work.

It is most difficult to adequately express how deeply distressed we are by his death. Nothing I say can replace the loss we feel or fill the void caused by his absence. But I wish to join with my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathy to his wife, Pegge, his children and all of his family and friends. I share in their sorrow and hope that they may find some small consolation in knowing that he will always be fondly remembered.

Mr. FRASER. Mr. Speaker, this day we are again recounting our recollections of a deceased colleague. Senator Sam Ervin recently described us as fellow travelers to the tomb. Because we are, we should not be surprised at the frequency with which, in a body this large, we are called upon to memorialize the lives of Members. But recognizing our mortality does not make this task easier. And it is an especially difficult task when the colleague we honor was killed in the prime of life, at the outset of a promising congressional career.

I think this describes NICK BEGICH's situation precisely.We know that he and our respected majority leader, Hale Boggs, were aboard

an aircraft that was lost on a flight between Anchorage and Juneau in the State NICK represented so well and so briefly—Alaska. Nothing further has been heard of that plane.

NICK was 40 years old at his death. He had been elected as Alaska's only House Member in 1970 and served through most of the 92d Congress. He was posthumously elected to this 93d Congress.

NICK and I shared several things in common and this mutuality of interest and background always compound and intensify the feeling of loss experienced when a colleague dies.

We proudly shared the label of liberal Democrat. Each of us headed Kennedy-Johnson campaign committees in 1960. Both of us were members of the Democratic Study Group Executive Committee, NICK being the first freshman to have these duties. We both were natives of Minnesota and both of us attended and received graduate degrees from the State university. We both served in our State legislatures before coming to Washington.

But it was NICK's dedication to the enactment of a fair Alaska Native Claims Settlement bill and my interest in this and other legislation concerning native Americans that represent my closest identification with NICK. The pages of the October and December 1971 Congressional Record testify to the effectiveness with which NICK pursued his goal. Without a doubt his effort on the Native Claims bill was the high point of his brief career in the House. But the important thing to remember is that while it may have been a high point of a brief career, it was a high point seldom reached by many long-term Members of this body.

During the debate on the conference report on the Alaskan Native Claims bill, the majority leader voiced his assessment of NICK BEGICH's role in steering the bill through the legislative shoals. Tributes to NICK BEGICH were also expressed by others who worked with him on the bill, members of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. It is ironic that so soon after these tributes to a young active colleague were expressed we should be honoring his memory.

Perhaps others will also quote what Majority Leader Boggs said about NICK BEGICH on December 14, 1971. But these words bear repitition and I close my remarks with them. They say much about the man we honor here today. And they may also explain, in part, why the majority leader journeyed to Alaska to campaign for NICK.

We have lost a valued colleague. His wife and children have lost a devoted husband and father. His constituents have lost a talented spokesman. We are all diminished.

Mr. Boggs' remarks of December 14, 1971, follow:

Mr. Boggs, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a very special tribute to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH). It is the rarest of circumstances when a freshman Congressman, as the only Congressman from his State, is confronted with a challenge of this magnitude, and one which is so crucial to the future of his State. It is all that much rarer for such a man to successfully answer such a challenge, but that is what NICK BEGICH has done.

The people of Alaska, every one of them, are fortunate to have such a man in Congress. On every bill, there is the temptation to represent only one interest, but NICK BEGICH absolutely refused to yield to such a persuasion. He represented one purpose throughout the consideration of the Native land claims bill, and that was the best interests of all Alaskans and all Americans. He has my respect for the job he has done.

Mr. MEEDS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to honor my former colleague and friend, NICK BEGICH. In the 2 short years of his term as Representative of the people of Alaska, he demonstrated the talent and the promise of being an outstanding Member of the House.

It was my privilege to know well both NICK and his delightful wife, Pegge. Since my district falls in the closest neighboring State of the lower 48, we worked together on legislation of mutual concern.

Perhaps the clearest indication of his promise and sensitivity was his leading role in passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Act. To do the job he did on such major legislation during his freshman term deserved the admiration of all of us.

His loss is a tragedy both to the people of Alaska and the Nation. It has already been felt in Congress.

Mr. ANDERSON of California. Mr. Speaker, those of us who had the pleasure of knowing and serving with the late NICK BEGICH knew a man of deep compassion, great intellect, and unswerving loyalty and devotion to the people of Alaska and their special needs.

His service here in the House of Representatives, though brief, was marked by his skill and mastery of the legislative process and by his ability to educate and enlighten us on the uniqueness of the problems of Alaska. His talent was illustrated by the enactment of the Alaskan Native Claims Act in which he forged a coalition of the diverse groups

and interests in Alaska to provide both equity for the Eskimos and Aleuts, and for protection of the great natural resources of his State.

NICK and I served on the Public Works Committee where we worked closely on projects of mutual interest—specifically, water pollution control legislation, and proposals to create employment by constructing needed schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and community structures. It was at that time that I was asked by Chairman John Blatnik to chair a special Public Works Subcommittee which was charged with the responsibility of conducting a brief on-site investigation of the progress and the future possibilities of public works projects in Alaska.

As the sole Representative in the House from Alaska, NICK coordinated the subcommittee's activities and helped determine the agenda and the locale of the hearings. I was especially impressed by the love he shared with the people, of the great beauty and the great potential of our 49th State.

As I returned from the investigation, I recall how my outlook—my conception of Alaska—had changed, primarily due to the influence of NICK. Until one has actually been to Alaska, it is difficult to understand the vastness, the dangers, and the promise of this great land. He showed me a side of Alaska that could only be shown by one who really cared and really understood the area and the people, and I believe that all of us who knew him came to share that concern.

We in the House of Representatives miss the talents and creativity of the late NICK BEGICH, and both Alaska and the Nation miss his many contributions. But, surely, this earth is a better place today because of the dedication and the service of NICK BEGICH.

I join with my colleagues in this tribute to NICK, and Lee and I join in wishing nothing but the best for his widow, Pegge, and their six children.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak briefly in tribute to the late NICK BEGICH of Alaska.

When I first heard the news about the disappearance of the airplane carrying Hale Boggs and NICK BEGICH, I was shocked and dismayed. As the days grew into weeks and it became obvious that the plane could not be located, my dismay turned to sadness. I knew NICK personally, and knew him well. We had shared with each other many of the problems we faced in serving enormously large and geographically

diverse congressional districts. I had worked closely with him on a number of issues, and was always impressed with his wide-ranging knowledge and willingness to pitch right into difficult matters. Above all, I think, I was impressed by his quiet independence, and his imaginative approaches to the difficult problems confronting Alaska and the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in this Nation of ours, we like to judge a man not by what he is, but by what he does or has done. On that basis, NICK BEGICH certainly distinguished himself. His list of accomplishments is long and rich. He proved himself extremely competent as a freshman Congressman. He worked long and hard as a teacher, school administrator, and legislator in Alaska. He was innovative and successful as a teacher, and was able to continue that success in his work, in business, and in the legislature. There is an inscription on Christopher Wren's tomb in England which says: "If you seek a monument, just look around." If we need to find a monument to NICK BEGICH, I think all we have to do is look around. His work, and his accomplishments, are still with us; there can be no better tribute.

All of this is little comfort to NICK's wonderful family. To Pegge and the children, Mrs. Ullman and I offer our heartfelt condolences.

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to join in these tributes to the Honorable NICK BEGICH. NICK's disappearance, along with our great majority leader, Hale Boggs, was a tragedy not only for his family, but for all of us in the House of Representatives and indeed for the whole State of Alaska.

NICK made a tremendous impression in his all-too-brief service in the House. His enthusiasm was heart warming, and it was always a signal pleasure to be associated with him on any legislative matter. I greatly regret that I did not have more opportunities of this character.

My wife and I extend to Mrs. Begich and the Begich family our deep sympathy in their loss. May they take some comfort in the fact that NICK BEGICH had so many friends and admirers.

Mr. VANIK. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues tonight in remembrance of our colleague from Alaska, the Honorable NICK BEGICH. He was truly one of the bright stars of the 92d Congress—a leader of the freshman class in that Congress.

He was a man of infinite promise and potential. He had the youth and exuberance that one would expect from the Representative of our

last frontier, last wilderness State. He was dedicated to the service of the people of his State and to the good of the whole Nation.

It is symbolic of our country that Alaska, the 49th State, is made of the various diverse peoples and nationalities which settled our Nation. It is symbolic that this State chose as one of its first Representatives a man whose ancestors had emigrated to the New World from Croatia. One of the largest centers of American-Croatian citizenry in the United States is in my congressional district. I remember being with NICK in Cleveland once when he spoke to a fraternal group—and I can remember how much he impressed his audience there—as he impressed all of us here—with his drive, with his purposefulness, with his dedication to his country.

My wife and I had occasion to be with NICK and his charming wife on several occasions at our home. We will always remember him as the brave young crusader and fighter—for the betterment of Alaska and the Nation.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, NICK BEGICH probably accomplished more in his short time as a Congressman than any Member in a comparable period. He was a shrewd, persistent, knowledgeable legislator who represented his people with fidelity and skill.

I sat near NICK all during the important and often heated deliberations of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee on the Alaska Native Claims legislation. He often came to my office for consultation and advice though we took different positions on main facets of that bill. I found him resourceful and a man of his word at all times.

The death of NICK BEGICH was a tragedy not only to his family and his State, but to the country, and to this House. NICK was the kind of legislator who would have helped so much in elevating and improving the Congress and the legislative process. He was an idealist, and yet a practitioner of the possible. We all miss him.

Mr. DOMINICK V. DANIELS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in eulogizing NICK BEGICH, a stalwart spokesman for the people of Alaska, late a Member of this House, who disappeared last fall while campaigning for reelection to this body with our dear friend Hale Boggs.

Mr. Speaker, the Almighty works in strange ways and for reasons of His own He took NICK BEGICH from us at the age of 40. All of us in the House know that NICK would have served in the Congress for

many years had not fate intervened. A singularly useful legislator, he was making a name for himself across the Nation as a young man deeply concerned with the problems that face us and willing to work toward solutions.

Mr. Speaker, we shall all miss NICK BEGICH and I extend my deepest sympathy to his widow, Pegge, and to their six surviving children. May Almighty God look down upon him and may perpetual light shine upon him.

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere and heartfelt sorrow about the tragic loss of our dear friend and colleague, NICK BEGICH of Alaska.

In the short time that NICK BEGICH was a Member of this body, I grew to admire and respect him. We served together on the same committee. NICK BEGICH was genuinely concerned about the welfare of his beloved State of Alaska and worked diligently to serve his constituents. His outstanding record of public service is an inspiration to all of us. NICK BEGICH was a man of compassion and concern, he was a man of integrity and a man of superior intellect. I consider it a rare privilege and a memory I shall long cherish to have known and worked with NICK BEGICH.

To his lovely wife, Pegge, and to their six children, Nichelle, Nick, Tom, Mark, Stephanie, and Paul, I offer my heartfelt condolences. It was his love and devotion for his wonderful wife and family that shall be NICK BEGICH's greatest memorial.

Mr. BRINKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today in Griffin, Ga., our State's little league baseball championship is getting underway. This event has a special meaning to me as my youngest son, Fred, is a member of one of the teams participating in the championship series.

And, because of this, I am reminded of a conversation which I had with our late colleague, NICK BEGICH, just prior to his tragic loss last year.

Walking with NICK through the subway from the Capitol to the Cannon Building our conversation turned to one of my favorite topics—baseball. I eagerly recounted to NICK just how much we in Georgia play the game and how fortunate we were to have an exceptional number of motivated youngsters as well as a warm climate which is greatly beneficial to playing.

Then, much to my surprise, NICK told me just how well the young men in Alaska play baseball. He was extremely proud not only of the fact that the game was being played in his State, but, more importantly, that it was being played to a high degree of excellence.

During his service in this Chamber NICK BEGICH gained our respect for his tireless and dedicated work. He never once missed an opportunity to speak out on behalf of the people of Alaska—not even when walking down the hall with one of his Southern colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join with all of our colleagues in paying tribute to NICK BEGICH. His absence from this body will be long felt and I certainly share this deep genuine loss with his wife and children and the Alaskan people.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our late colleague and friend, NICK BEGICH.

In my years in Congress, I have had the pleasure of working with many bright, young Members having high ideals, almost unlimited energy, and great ambition—in the best sense of the word. One of the finest of these able young men was the articulate spokesman for Alaska.

It was the Nation's immediate loss when we lost our majority leader—the late Hale Boggs. He was well known, highly respected, and well liked by people all over the country. But it was an equally great tragedy that we lost a bright, young man who offered great promise and potential as a future leader for the Nation.

As a member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, NICK BEGICH showed great talent as a legislator. Not only did he show perception in asking key questions on proposals before the committee, but he showed leadership in guiding through the committee one of the major legislative accomplishments of the 92d Congress—the Alaska Native Land Claims Act.

NICK's work was not selfishly motivated. He worked diligently as a member of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation on projects of all kinds, but he never forgot to get in a pitch for the interests of his constituents whenever the opportunity arose. Just a short time before his last trip to Alaska, he successfully pressed our subcommittee to consider—and convinced us to approve—legislation enlarging and improving the Sitka National Monument in his home State.

Mr. Speaker, besides being a hard worker, an able advocate, and a constructive legislator, NICK BEGICH was the kind of a person everyone likes to have as a friend. He added warmth and enthusiasm to the legislative process. To him every day was a challenge and an opportunity. Together with his wife, Pegge, he could bring light into a dark day, a smile to your face, and turn a cold room into a warm, friendly place.

As a colleague, NICK BEGICH was tops. He understood the legislative process and its problems—he did not fight it, he worked with it—and he usually succeeded. As a friend, we could work and laugh together—perhaps we might disagree on an issue, but when the debate was over and the votes were counted we were still friends. Our loss is beyond words, but the memory of this man and the mark which he made in all of our hearts will remain with us in the years ahead.

Mrs. HANSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, because of the lateness of the hour last night, I did not have an opportunity to pay a tribute to our very beloved late colleague, NICK BEGICH of Alaska. NICK became a particular friend of mine, because of the close association of the State of Washington, and Alaska. He was not only a delightful friend and a charming person, but he was also an extremely capable and brilliant legislator.

It was with deep sadness that all of us read of the death of Congressman BEGICH and the disappearance of the airplane in his native State. The House has missed him, and I know that his State has missed him.

His activities on behalf of the people of Alaska was so tremendous that I am sure his memory will remain everlasting in that State as his memory will remain with those of us who had the joy of knowing him.

My sympathy to his charming wife and her family.

Mr. BADILLO. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed proud to join with my colleagues in honoring the memory of our colleague, NICK BEGICH. I am proud to have known NICK, to have entered the House with him in the 92d Congress and to have had the privilege of working with him.

Although our acquaintance was much too brief, I was deeply impressed with NICK's boundless energy, his dedication, and preseverance and his effectiveness as a legislator, even as a freshman. He came

to the Congress after a distinguished career as an educator and State legislator and very ably represented the vastness of his State. A tribute to the tireless and effective efforts of NICK BEGICH was the passage of the Alaska National Land Claims Act, a measure which had languished in the Congress for some 6 years before his arrival.

NICK BEGICH had a bright and most promising career before him and there is no question, but that he is sorely missed in these Halls. His premature loss is a great tragedy—for his family, his State, and his country.

Mrs. GRASSO. Mr. Speaker, it has been 9 months since our friend and colleague, NICK BEGICH, failed to return from a flight over Alaska. The passage of time has not lessened the tragedy that struck his family, his State, and the Nation that day. Indeed, it has only demonstrated the extent of the loss we have suffered, because of his passing.

NICK BEGICH, after only one term in the House, had established himself as a conscientious legislator, dedicated to the welfare of his State and his country. He served with distinction on the Public Works Committee, and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, vigorously and successfully fighing for legislation to benefit the citizens of his State.

NICK's devotion to his work, which he pursued with uncommon energy and enthusiasm, helped him make his mark in the House. He had wisdom beyond his years, and his opinions were greatly respected by all who knew him. It is men and women like NICK BEGICH who will turn the promise of a great American future into a reality. It is indeed tragic that his life was cut short at the very time that he was working vigorously for constructive progress and change. It is with great respect and admiration for the late NICK BEGICH that I join my colleagues in paying tribute to him today.

Mr. WILLIAM D. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues today in honoring the memory of NICK BEGICH, whose promising career was tragically cut short last October.

NICK BEGICH was the kind of man who belonged in the Congress. He was alert, knowledgeable, and articulate. His two terms in the Alaska State Senate had made him familiar with the legislative process, and he quickly adapted this knowledge to the workings of the Congress.

As a former educator—both teacher and administrator—he had a special love for education, and he was among the enthusiastic backers of legislation to improve our Nation's educational system. NICK BEGICH was a native of Minnesota, and was educated there, as well as in Colorado and North Dakota, but his spiritual home was Alaska, which he loved with deep fervor. He worked hard and effectively on his subcommittee assignments on the Interior and Insular Affairs and Public Works Committees.

His fellow members of the 92d Congress Club showed their respect for NICK BEGICH by choosing him as treasurer for 1971. He was elected last year to the executive board of the Democratic Study Group—the first freshman Congressman so honored. I had the pleasure to work with him in this capacity, and was greatly impressed with his keen mind and boundless enthusiasm.

In his death, Alaska has lost one of its greatest champions, the Congress has lost one of its most promising young Members, and we, his colleagues, have lost a friend and a gentleman who is sadly missed.

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my profound sorrow over the loss of our colleague from Alaska, NICK BEGICH. The circumstances surrounding his untimely death are familiar to everyone. It was indeed a tragic loss not only for his wife Pegge and their six children but also for his fellow Members of Congress and the Nation.

NICK served his State well and left a record of which he and any of us can be proud. His near perfect record of attendance attests to his dedication. He was always willing to devote his energies to fighting for legislation on issues in which he deeply believed. NICK was in the forefront when it came to civil rights, education, the environment, and ending American involvement in Southeast Asia. Words seem inadequate in trying to assess his contributions to his State and to his country.

In his short time on Capitol Hill, NICK BEGICH contributed a great deal. We will never know how far he might have gone or great deeds he might have accomplished had his life not ended so suddenly. One thing is certain—I will miss him and treasure his memory always.

Mr. EDWARDS of California. Mr. Speaker, the loss of great leaders has been felt by this country throughout our history. They have

been tragic losses, known by all, touching all hearts. But the loss of a potentially great leader, an inspiring beginner, an idealist with the ability to place dreams in a working perspective, a man such as NICK BEGICH, seems the most tragic loss of all.

NICK BEGICH was a workingman, dedicated and devoted to the ideals of his country, the preservation of his great State, and the welfare of its people. Although he was a Member of this House for barely 9 months, his accomplishments proved him to be one of the most active and conscientious freshman legislators in recent history.

He worked for better education, he worked for legislation to include environmental protection relating to the Alaskan pipeline, he was vice chairman of the DSG and the Indian Education Task Force; just a few of the many accomplishments signifying his dedication to the ideals he held so high.

Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to join my colleagues in honoring the late NICK BEGICH, a truly great legislator.

Mr. ZWACK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying special tribute to NICK BEGICH.

NICK was born in our great State of Minnesota and was a distinguished alumnus of St. Cloud State College in our Sixth Congressional District. He was an outstanding example of the quality of citizens we have in Minnesota.

The last time NICK and I walked to the Capitol from our offices on the fifth floor of the Longworth Building was the Friday in October before he was to be honored as the alumnus of the year at St. Cloud State College. We discussed Minnesota and the upcoming homecoming of the college. We were both scheduled to ride in the homecoming parade but were detained in Washington and could not make it.

The next Monday NICK's plane was lost.

I have and shall continue to miss NICK's presence in the House of Representatives very much. Even though we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, our friendship crossed party lines.

I will always remember NICK as one of the finest colleagues with whom I have served. He did an effective job for his district. I shall always feel proud that this distinguished man had his roots in our great State of Minnesota.

Mr. ROE. Mr. Speaker, while on an official leave of absence with our Science and Astronautics Subcommittee on International Cooperation in Science and Space in Moscow and Japan, I regrettably missed the special order honoring our former colleague, the late Honorable NICK BEGICH of Alaska. I, therefore, appreciate the opportunity to join in this well-deserved tribute through the insertion of my memoriam to NICK in today's historic journal of Congress.

NICK was a junior freshman to me by 1 year—having joined the Congress 1 year after I took office—and I will never forget the warmth of the exchange of views and the friendship and understanding that kindled between us in the brief time that I had the good fortune to know him.

He was a great American statesman himself, but always expressed awe and appreciation for the leaders and makers of history in our Government. I will always remember his great admiration for Presidents Truman and Kennedy especially.

I too now stand in awe of his many accomplishments as an educator, businessman, and all-too-brief career as a Congressman. As my colleague on the Public Works Committee I was able to observe firsthand the quality of his leadership and the richness of his wisdom in his quest for answers to the problems to meet the needs of our people.

It is difficult and incredulous to understand his tragic disappearance cutting off his expertise in the middle of our deliberations here in the Congress, at such a young age in our society. He is indeed sorely missed by all of us who had the good fortune to know him.

He served his country with distinction and honor and was a credit to his family and the constituency he represented here in the House of Representatives. Our Nation is indeed grateful for his dynamic and courageous endeavors in outstanding public service to the citizens of his congressional district and the United States of America.

Words are inadequate to fill the void of his great loss—but I do trust that his wife, Pegge, and his children, Nichelle, Nicholas, Thomas, Mark, Stephanie, and Paul will soon find abiding comfort in the faith that God has given them and in the knowledge that the Honorable NICK BEGICH is now under His loving care.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy and profound homage to a great American.

Mr. HELSTOSKI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in paying tribute to the late NICK BEGICH who served his constituents and his Nation with great effectiveness, distinction, and accomplishment.

While NICK was afforded the opportunity of serving only one term in the House of Representatives, he exhibited to all of us a devotion to duty that should serve as a goal for all present and future Members of Congress.

No more fitting memorial could be left to us and to those near and dear to him than the knowledge that NICK BEGICH was a man of complete devotion to the duties bestowed upon him by the people of the State of Alaska.

Mr. DULSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss that I join in paying tribute to the late Honorable NICK BEGICH. His service in the U.S. House of Representatives was all too brief, but his accomplishments were many.

It has been just a little less than a year since I had the opportunity to be in Alaska to speak at a banquet of the American Federation of Government Employees in Anchorage. NICK had persuaded me to accept their invitation, and I was struck by his dedication to the Federal employees. No one knew better than he did the adverse conditions for workers in Alaska and no one cared more about their welfare.

My remarks at the banquet contained a good bit of sincere praise for Congressman NICK BEGICH, and I would like to repeat it here.

These tributes should not be treated lightly. They are well deserved. For in today's world of self-declared expertise, instant criticism, and self-imposed blindness, one often loses sight of the tremendous service performed by the civil servant and by outstanding Congressmen such as NICK BEGICH.

Before I discuss with you those legislative matters in which you are deeply interested, I would like to tell you about your own Congressman, NICK BEGICH.

He has one of the most unique Congressional jobs. As the lone Congressman from a State as large and complex as Alaska, he does not have the same freedoms that a Congressman from another State might have to choose his issues.

In a State with a State with ten or twenty Congressmen, a trend often develops that one man might specialize in health care, while another chooses foreign policy or education. For NICK BEGICH, and Alaska, this isn't possible—he must do the whole job, and there are some things about him that make certain he does it well.

First, NICK has a clear view of Alaska's priorities. From the very first day he came to Congress, back in January of 1971, he knew that the Alaska Native Land Claims would be his first job.

He knew that he had to do all that was necessary to get progress on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline project, and to make it a safe project environmentally.

He knew he has to deal with Alaska's unemployment, which is usually at least double that of the rest of the nation.

He knew he had to gain better water and sewer systems and other community services throughout Alaska, and to make new jobs while doing so.

He knew he had to improve the transportation system in Alaska by working on a bill to allow Alaska's beautiful ferry, the *Wickersham,* to operate with a waiver of the Jones Act, and by working with the C.A.B. on the Alaska air service cases.

He also knew how vital the needs of government employees were, but I want to say more about that later.

Very rarely has a freshman gone after his committee assignments as Nick Begich did. He knew that Interior and Public Works were the key committees for Alaska, and he never let up in seeking them. Of course, he won. Since a Member is limited to two, Nick had to skip others which were vital, such as Merchant Marine and Fisheries and my own Post Office and Civil Service, but he is like an extra committee member on both of those and others.

Next, anyone who watches Nick sees immediately that he believes idealism is worthless without hard work. I understand Nick has a voting record of over 99 percent. I can add to the fact that he attends about 99 percent of all his committee meetings as well.

Perhaps you don't understand why that is so important, but let me tell you it is vital. First, it means Alaska is always represented, even with its single Member. Next, it means that Nick is there when someone else's problems are considered, and as a colleague I respect that.

Another factor of crucial importance is that Nick Begich insists on getting his colleagues to Alaska. The fact that the Speaker of the House Carl Albert and Public Works Chairman Blatnik have come to Alaska for Nick is amazing.

Now I understand our distinguished majority leader, Hale Boggs, is coming, and, of course, he had talked me into coming to see the government employees of Alaska.

I can tell you that, one year ago, I never thought I would be here but I am, and it is as important to see why Alaska is different—as your Congressman said it would be. Also I think I can hint that Nick has some surprises in store for future visits.

To conclude these thoughts, let me say that Nick has been incredibly successful.

After years of failure on the part of others, the land claims bill—and a good one—passed overwhelmingly in the House during the first year that he was in office. Before Nick Begich came, such a bill had never been reported out of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee.

Nick's bill to secure a waiver of the Jones Act which allows the *Wickersham* to operate between all ports in Alaska was also passed, and there are vital public works projects moving forward for every area in the State.

Your Congressman has done so much in such a short time that I recall when the *Wickersham* bill came before the full House, only a short time after the Native Land Claims bills, Members were shaking their heads and going over to joke with NICK that "he was getting too much."

He just tells us it is a big state.

Travel to Alaska, across the width of our continent, is a major undertaking, to my way of thinking. Yet NICK took it in stride, as part of his duty to his constituents and their interests—even during the major airline strikes, when delays drove ordinary people to distraction, NICK considered the sacrifices a part of his service.

During my visit, I had the pleasure of meeting his lovely wife and family, and felt the closeness of their relationship. Our hearts and our thoughts go out to them and we share their sadness.

Alaska is indeed a big State, and NICK BEGICH was a big man who represented it in a big way. I am sure that we all thought of him yesterday, when the trans-Alaska pipeline bill was passed—even though he is gone, much of the impetus for passage was his. He will be greatly missed.

Mrs. Dulski and I extend our sincerest condolences to the Begich family.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I join my colleagues in paying tribute to the late NICK BEGICH. I do not believe this Chamber has seen many freshman Members who were as knowledgeable and effective on legislative matters as was NICK. While always striving to serve his Alaskan constituents to the best of his ability, NICK also grasped the wider implications of measures presented to this body and served the entire Nation well.

I was privileged to serve with NICK on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee during the 92d Congress, and learned to appreciate his personal qualities of kindness, humor and ability when we were working together so closely on the Alaska Native Claims legislation. NICK showed a keenness of mind and an understanding of the intricacies of this bill that could only come from deep study and personal involvement with the issues. Without his counsel, we would have had a rough time moving this urgent legislation through the committee and the House.

Early this year, I traveled to Alaska as a representative of the House of Representatives at a tribute for NICK. I was impressed by the high respect in which NICK was held in his home State.

The State of Alaska has lost an effective Representative; America has lost an able legislator; and I have lost a good and valued friend. But our loss cannot compare with that of the charming and brave Pegge Begich and her children, and to them I again express my sorrow and regret at Nick's untimely death and my deepest sympathy and condolences.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to add a word to what has been said, so well said.

I think perhaps Frank Evans had in mind what I had, and that is that if there was any one quality that Nick brought to us, to this House and therefore to the country, it was a sense of joy in his work and in his mission; a kind of gladness, as if it was the most natural thing to come down here and wrest from 434 other Members effective answers to the complex problems of Alaska and the Nation.

He had a kind of zest for that. I remember best, really, his eyes. In his eyes was this haunting combination of curiosity, insistence, compassion and a kind of belief that the answers he would get would be the ones he wanted. It was very difficult, really, to look at Nick's eyes and see "Yes" written there, and say "No."

And he did it all with such a keen, clear spirit. His character and personality were a tremendous credit to a great many people we have never met.

One philosopher has written that every man, every human being is the tip of a pyramid, an invisible pyramid of hopes, plans, character, and bloodlines of men and women who have gone before and from whom he descends. We cannot know those people, but we know they must have been sturdy and strong, uncommonly wise, great people; for certainly, he was.

So, I join my colleagues in hoping very much that his wife Pegge and his children and family will bear in mind that that is how we will ever think of him and all who were close to him.

Mr. NATCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay humble tribute to the memory of my friend Nick Begich.

Soon after being elected a Member of the Congress, Representative Begich established an outstanding record with all of the Members. Honor, ability and integrity were the hallmarks of Nick Begich's career in the House of Representatives.

I had the honor to preside at the time the Alaskan bill was before the House. For a great many years efforts had been made to settle this particular problem and it was through the efforts of NICK BEGICH that this legislation was enacted. I recall distinctly that during general debate on this bill he presented the case of the residents of Alaska in a brilliant manner and with his warm humanity and congeniality had no difficulty in receiving the assistance of the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives.

Few men in any walk of life have attracted so large a share of public attention as he did in presenting the claim of his people. He was always cheerful, humble, and dedicated and possessed a delightful sense of humor.

We all miss NICK BEGICH in the House and the record that he established will long live in the minds and the hearts of the people in this country.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Speaker, the terrible tragedy which claimed the lives of our distinguished colleagues, Hale Boggs of Louisiana and NICK BEGICH of Alaska has cast a pall of sadness over the House of Representatives. We have previously honored the late Hale Boggs with appropriate eulogies, and we are now engaged in eulogizing NICK BEGICH. Although his length of service in the Congress was cut tragically short, in a relatively brief period of time he established an enviable reputation as a man of highest integrity and as a valuable and devoted public servant. I share the admiration which has been expressed by so many.

To Mrs. Begich and other members of the family, I extend my deepest sympathy in their bereavement.

PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

UNITED STATES SENATE

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *October 17, 1972.*

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, the Nation, especially those of us who serve in Congress, and those of us who hail from Louisiana, are extremely dismayed at the bad news that a plane carrying the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Hale Boggs, is missing. A search is due to resume again in about 1 hour in the effort to find the lost plane.

At this moment we can only pray that this is not the type disaster which we all fear. Representative NICK BEGICH and some of his staff were aboard the plane with Representative Boggs.

Our sympathy goes to his family and loved ones at this time. We pray for Representative Boggs and Representative BEGICH, and their companions, and we all hope the results of the search today may be favorable. We extend our sympathies to Mrs. Boggs in this hour of sorrow, and also the Boggs family.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I wish to join with the distinguished Senator from Louisiana in the statements which he has just made about the situation which confronts Representative Hale Boggs and Representative NICK BEGICH, of Alaska.

When the White House called me last night about the possibility that something might have happened, I was, of course, very much distressed. But the search is still going on. I hope that it will be possible to rescue these two men and their companions. In the meantime, we all join with the distinguished Senator from Louisiana in praying for the survival of all members on the aircraft and for their safe return soon to Washington.

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, the latest information available to me is that the search will resume at about noon, Washington time, which is approximately 7 o'clock Alaskan time. Prior to that time organized search is not possible. Daybreak occurs in the next hour and at that point the search by, I believe, 35 or more planes will resume. We hope very much it will be successful.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, my colleague from Alaska (Mr. Gravel) and I have had a great many questions and comments from Senators and Members of the other body and interested friends of the distinguished Representative NICK BEGICH and the distinguished majority leader of the House of Representatives, Hale Boggs, who are reported lost on a plane that left Anchorage yesterday morning destined for Juneau. There has been much concern about them.

I have some press reports from the Anchorage morning newspaper, and I should like to say, as I have just said to the distinguished Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Long), that if this report, as contained in the newspaper, is correct, it states that a plane reportedly was heard over Whittier by a dockworker around 9:30 a.m. Monday. The article reads, in part:

> A Whittier area construction worker said he heard a light plane over the Whittier region at about 9:30 a.m. Monday, the Whittier Chief of Police told The Daily News Monday night. A regularly scheduled Polar Airways craft headed by Valdez normally passes Whittier at that time, but had been rescheduled to fly a different route Monday, The Daily News learned.

If that plane got through Whittier, and that was along a path that was in pretty bad condition—the path between Anchorage and Whittier—then I should say that there is at least a 50–50 chance that the two Congressmen in the Cessna-310 plane are down somewhere around Cordova—between Cordova and Yakutat—and that is good country to put a plane down in an emergency. It is the place where the Senator from Mississippi goes duck hunting, so he knows the area very well, as do all of us who are sportsmen.

I want to assure the Senator from Louisiana that his good friend and my good friend were with a very experienced pilot. Don Jonz has been in Alaska some 15 years. He has written an article on instrument flying in the Alaska area, and he has flown my colleague, Senator Gravel, and his wife. He had a very new plane, a Cessna-310, a twin-engine plane that we rely on a great deal in our area.

For some statistics, I called the Air Force about their search and rescue capability, and they pointed out that so far this year they have had 161 rescue missions and have located 573 people. They have a search going on that covers a 4,000-square-mile area, and they have 23 planes out and some 400 small boats searching the coastline, which is some 550 to 600 miles, between Anchorage and Juneau.

So I would hope, as I told the Senator's friend and mine, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, when I called him and told him some of these things, that everyone will maintain the hope that our friends will be found alive and well, after having had a close call. If anyone had a good chance to come through a situation like this they did, because of the plane they had and the pilot they had, and I think we have the best search and rescue capability in the country, so I am confident that everything is being done that can be done. Governor Egan has organized our National Guard to assist, the Civil Air Patrol is assisting, the Coast Guard is involved, and the Air Force is involved. I want to assure the Senate that if we can answer questions in this way, we will state that we have hopes our colleagues will be found alive and well.

I ask unanimous consent that these reports from the Anchorage Daily News be printed in the Record at this point.

SEARCH COVERS HUGE AREA

(By Howard Weaver)

Aircraft from Anchorage, Yakutat and Juneau swept about 24,000 square miles of Alaska coastline Monday looking for the missing congressmen.

Shortly after 2 p.m. the Cessna 310 airplane was reported overdue in Juneau, and six search planes were in the air moments later. A U.S. Coast Guard C130 took off from Juneau, an FAA C47 began searching the Yakutat area and three planes were dispatched from Anchorage to join the effort.

"Figuring who's on board and all, it's going to be one hell of a search," an official at the Rescue Coordination Center in Anchorage said late Monday.

All the aircraft set down for the night except a C130 from Elemendorf Air Force Base, which was to continue an electronic search throughout the night.

The missing plane was equipped with an emergency-locator transmitter, which is designed to broadcast the location of the plane in the event of a crash. The range of the device is said to be up to 150 miles, but no contact was made during the evening.

The search enlisted the help of Civil Air Patrol planes from Anchorage in addition to the Air Force craft. CAP planes from Cordova were scheduled to

join the effort, but were unable to get off the ground, according to RCC personnel.

Early speculation from some observers was that the missing plane was probably down somewhere in the Whittier area, about 60 miles southeast of Anchorage.

The pilot of the plane, Don E. Jonz of Fairbanks, made radio contact only once after leaving Anchorage International Airport at 9 a.m. That was 12 minutes into the flight, which would have placed the plane in the vicinity of Portage Pass, just northwest of Whittier.

Jack Peck, manager of Anchorage International Airport and pioneer Alaska pilot, said severe tuburlence and extreme icing was reported in the pass and that the unpressurized airplane would have been unable to climb above it.

Peck, who planned to search the area in his own plane today, said the military lost a helicopter in the pass a number of years ago but that "most pilots have a lot of respect for the pass and are real careful."

"The pass is about 2,500 feet between here and Whittier. After that, it's clear sailing. There is a very good prospect that there would be where they are," Peck said.

When pilot Jonz called Anchorage 12 minutes after takeoff, he filed a flight plan for a VFR (visual flight rules) path to Juneau, following route Victor 317, which goes from Anchorage to Portage, Whittier, Johnstone Point south of Cordova and then down the Southeast Alaska coast to Harbor Point, and due East to Sisters Island and Juneau Municipal Airport.

A Whittier-area construction worker said he heard a light plane over the Whittier region at about 9:30 a.m. Monday, the Whittier chief of police told The Daily News Monday night. A regularly scheduled Polar Airways craft headed for Valdez normally passes Whittier at that time, but had been rescheduled to fly a different route Monday, The Daily News learned. That led to speculation that the aircraft heard in Whittier was the missing plane.

No radio or other contact was made with the plane after that.

Ed Shepard, a boat pilot in Whittier, said Monday evening that the weather had been "pretty rough" in the area all day. He said that he would use his boat to search the area today, weather permitting. According to his report seas in the sound were running to 14 feet, with poor visibility and water temperature at about 37 degrees.

The FAA's Anchorage Flight Service Station reported that another light aircraft flew the Whittier route Monday afternoon, and was forced to turn back to Anchorage. They said that the craft was in the area at 5:25 p.m. and encountered "light to moderate rime icing," which coats aircraft wings with a frost-like covering and makes flying dangerous.

Water temperature in the sound averages in the low 40s at this time of year, and could be colder closer to glacial shores.

Campaign Moratorium; Demos Ponder Election

(By Andy Williams)

Rep. Nick Begich's Republican opponent in the race for Alaska's lone U.S. House seat said Monday night he would hold a moratorium on his campaign until the congressmen are found.

State Sen. Don Young of Ft. Yukon, reached in Wrangell on a campaign stop, said he was confident Begich and Rep. Hale Boggs, D–La., would be found safely, but that he was curtailing his campaign until they were.

Meanwhile, Democratic party leaders pondered steps they would have to take if the worst occurred. Officials said procedures were simple, that the Democratic State Central Committee would meet and choose a successsor-candidate, but that the nearness of the election and the uncertainty of Begich's fate made what would happen as a practical matter extremely speculative.

"Anytime a public servant such as Nick Begich takes time to travel around the state to see his constituents and this happens, it's a sad day for the state," said Young, adding that he had flown more than 40,000 miles during the campaign.

"There is no way I can continue the campaign on the same level without knowing where he is," Young said. "We were going to have debates and discuss the issues. We'll just have to wait until he's found to continue the campaign," he said.

Young said there were dangers to a politician inherent in campaigning by air. He said he had a close experience last week on a chartered flight between Bethel and Fairbanks when the plane iced up.

"But air is the only way to travel in an election. It's a risk you have to take," Young said.

Democratic Party spokesmen said speculation about what the 29-member state central committee would do was premature until the plane was found. They indicated the committee would do nothing to appoint a candidate even if Begich is still missing at the time of the Nov. 7 election. If that happened, they said, Gov. William A. Egan could seek a special election.

A party spokesman said the central committee has the power under state law to appoint persons to vacated candidacies for House seats but not to unexpired House terms.

The governor appoints persons to vacated seats in the Senate.

As Boggs noted at a speech at Sunday night's fund-raising banquet for Begich, the House of Representatives is "the only place you can get to where you must be elected.

"One can become president if he happens to be vice president and the president dies or if he's speaker of the House and the vice president dies. One can be appointed to the United States Senate by the governor, but you must be elected to the House of Representatives, it's the only way you can get there. And it is indeed, the most responsive institution in our country."

The central committee spokesman said, "The central committee would

hear applications, solicit people and the majority opinion of the committee would appoint him," the spokesman said. However, he said that ballots had already gone to the printers and that a new candidate would have a serious disrupting effect on the campaign.

He noted that many people have been found alive two weeks or more after their planes have gone down and said he was confident that what he described as the most intensive air search in Alaska's history would locate the plane and the two congressmen alive.

"If he's still missing a week from now, then we will have to cross that bridge when we get to it," he said.

Experienced Pilot: Jonz in Alaska 15 Years

Don E. Jonz, pilot of the plane which disappeared Monday with Congressmen Nick Begich of Alaska and Hale Boggs of Louisiana aboard, had more than 15 years experience flying in Alaska and had recently written a magazine article on techniques of flying through ice.

Jonz, 38, owner of Pan-Alaska Airways of Fairbanks, came to Alaska from California around 1957 and has flown extensively with charter operations and training schools in Fairbanks. He started his present company about 1967 and carried cargo to the North Slope during the Prudhoe Bay oil buildup. He presently was operating with about seven planes, according to Fairbanks sources.

Jerry Hook, a friend of Jonz in Fairbanks who participated with him in international air races, said Jonz had "well over 10,000 hours" flight time. "I have no questions at all about his flying. He was a very good flier."

Another source said Jonz liked to "help out the people he thought were doing the right thing for Alaska." Jonz has flown Sen. Mike Gravel on various speaking tours.

Jonz wrote an article about airplane icing which appeared in the publication, "Instrument Flying 1973." The article related experiences Jonz had flying through ice in Alaska and included pointers on how to avoid the hazards.

Jonz wrote that correct judgment and flying techniques could overcome the effects of ice. "If you are sneaky, smart and careful you can fly 350 days a year and disregard 99 per cent of the b.s. you hear about icing," Jonz wrote.

Another long-time Alaska flier who read the article said it discounted some of the serious effects icing has on flight characteristics of airplanes.

"I think he should have treated icing with a little more respect," he said.

Lost Plane Highly Rated

The aircraft which carried House Majority Leader Hale Boggs and Alaska Congressman Nick Begich was a model 310 Cessna, a twin-engined, six-passenger craft which is highly rated by many Alaska pilots.

Their plane was N1812H, which was manufactured in 1959. It was owned by Pan-Alaska Airways Ltd., a Fairbanks-based air-charter service.

Don E. Jonz, pilot of the plane and owner of Pan-Alaska, was described by one local pilot as "one of the best drivers there is." He had been owner of the air service for a number of years.

The aircraft was equipped with an emergency locator transmitter, which was designed to start operating on impact and transmit a radio beacon so the plane could be located if it crashed. The range is listed as "up to 150 miles" but contact must be made on a line-of-sight basis. That means that if the plane were in a valley, it would be necessary to fly directly over the downed aircraft.

Specifications for a 1959 model, such as the one which carried the congressmen, were not available, but the listing for the 1973 version indicate great range and speed for the craft.

The newest 310 Cessna aircraft is capable of cruising at 221 miles per hour, and can fly for 960 miles without refueling with a six-man load.

With a load of 4,000 pounds, the new model needs about 600 feet for landing.

Begich and Boggs Missing

House Majority Leader Hale Boggs, D-La., Rep. Nick Begich, D-Alaska, and two others aboard a twin-engine plane were missing and believed down today en route from Anchorage to Juneau.

The Pan-Alaska Airways Cessna 310, piloted by Don E. Jonz and also carrying special assistant to Begich, Russell L. Brown, was scheduled to fly through treacherous weather in 3,000-foot-high Portage Pass near Whittier on the 3-hour, 30-minute trip Monday.

The plane with Boggs, who holds the second most powerful position in the U.S. House, left Anchorage International Airport at 9 a.m. and was last heard from at 9:12 a.m., when Federal Aviation Administration officials received a visual flight plan filed by Jonz.

About that time, the twin-engine craft would have been approaching the Turnagain Arm entrance to Portage Pass, the lowest cut in the nearby 5,000–7,000-foot mountains of the Chugach Range.

"We assume the plane is down," an FAA spokesman said after the time had passed when the craft would have exhausted its fuel supply.

The Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) at Elmendorf Air Force Base dispatched search craft 90 minutes after the FAA first reported that the plane had failed to arrive at 12:30 p.m. Anchorage time as scheduled. The RCC said that today it planned to direct 32 aircraft on a search of the 24,000 square miles of Alaska coastline where the plane might have gone down.

Boggs was to be keynote speaker at a 6 p.m. fund-raising dinner for Begich at the Baranof Hotel in Juneau before catching a 7 p.m. jet to Seattle and on to Washington for resumption of Congress Tuesday morning.

The plane with Boggs and Begich had a cruising speed of about 200 miles an hour, a ceiling limited to about 10,000 feet due to lack of a pressurized cabin, and carried an emergency beacon, a five-hour gas supply, and unspecified survival gear.

An Air Force HC130, electronically equipped to locate the Cessna's emergency beacon, was to fly through the night, searching for the plane bearing registration number N1812H along the 80-mile path the plane might have travelled from Anchorage over Whittier, Prince William Sound, Cordova and Yakutat to Juneau.

FAA flight service stations all along the 550-mile route reported no sign of the Cessna, although a plane reportedly was heard over Whittier by a dock worker around 9:30 a.m.

Darkness forced two Civil Air Patrol planes from Anchorage, two CAP planes and a Coast Guard C130 from Juneau and an FAA C47 from Yakutat to curtail the search until this morning.

Polar Airways, Ltd., which normally flies a plane from Cordova to Anchorage through Portage Pass around 9:30 a.m., reported that Monday its plane took a circuitous route partially to avoid heavy icing conditions and poor visibility in the pass.

Upon hearing of conditions in the pass, a pilot who has flown the route said "They had pretty much everything against them." The National Weather Service reported low visibility and some turbulence around Portage Pass. Prince William Sound, just minutes beyond Portage, was seething with 14 foot waves whipping the cold waters along the wooded shores.

Anchorage International Airport manager Jack Peck said that Portage Pass was battered by extreme turbulence and heavy icing conditions.

An FAA spokesman said, "If the plane had been in trouble, or had broken the flight plan normal procedure would have been to establish radio contact. There could be many circumstances like a malfunctioning radio or out of radio range that could cause us to lose contact. But the plane passed its fuel exhaustion time (at 2 p.m. Anchorage time) and we assume that the airplane is down."

National Transportation Safety Board spokesman William Moore said the Cessna had a radio beacon, but "so far, we haven't heard a squeak out of it."

About 400 boats from Cordova also reportedly were searching around Hinchinbrook Island in Prince William Sound, about 80 miles from Portage Pass.

Juneau was partially socked in and an Alaska Airlines plane overheaded to Sitka early Monday, but by the time Boggs and Begich were scheduled to arrive visibility was 12 miles.

Begich's administrative assistant, Gene Kennedy, who flew to Sitka and returned to Anchorage Monday afternoon while trying to land in Juneau via Alaska Airlines, said, "When I first heard about it, they still had about 40 minutes more gas, so I didn't become alarmed until then. There are supposed to be 32 planes going out in the morning but I don't know whether that's the case now with the weather kind of rainy and cloudy."

Kennedy said that Brown, who has a child and five stepchildren, had been recently promoted to coordinator of Begich's three state offices in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks. Prior to joining Begich's staff here, Brown had run every Begich campaign in Ketchikan since 1964.

Boggs, the 58-year-old 14-term congressman, was Democratic whip from 1962 to 1970, when he became House majority leader.

Begich, a first term congressman who recently rolled up a convincing primary vote, is a former school teacher, apartment manager and two-term Alaska state senator.

Jonz, 38, president of Pan Alaska, had been flying in Alaska since 1957. One friend said, he had logged more than 10,000 flying hours.

Egan: "Just Hope and Pray"

(By Linda Billington)

Shock and dismay from both sides of the Alaska political fence greeted the news Monday that Congressman Nick Begich and Hale Boggs were missing on a flight from Anchorage.

Gov. William A. Egan said he would "just hope and pray that later tonight or sometime in the morning we can find out where these people are. I feel that the ones working (on the search) are doing as good a job as possible."

Egan said he had talked with Mrs. Boggs, Begich's wife Pegge and son Tom in Washington, as well as the wife of Russel Brown, Begich's special assistant who was on the plane. He said that neighbors are staying with Mrs. Begich.

Egan recalled several emergency flights he and Mrs. Egan had experienced in Alaska—all of which landed safely. "I hope and pray that's the way it is," he said. "I'm disheartened that up to this time there has been no detection of a beeper. If they had to land on a beach somewhere, that beeper should have been heard."

U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, struck an optimistic note, saying that

"people should not give up hope because there were several spots where the plane could have set down.

"There are a lot of beaches along there," he said, "I've flown along there many times. There are four or five emergency fields along the line where an airplane could land.

"I just hope everybody doesn't give up hope. I remember when I put down a couple of times where there was no phone, because of the weather . . . I'd say the odds are in favor of them turning up somewhere with a pilot like (Don) Jonz."

State Rep. Gene Guess, who has been campaigning for Stevens' U.S. Senate seat, said that he and BEGICH had planned a 10-day campaign tour of Southeastern. Guess said that he had suspended his campaign indefinitely.

"We were scheduled to meet each other in Ketchikan tomorrow, and were supposed to be at a luncheon in Wrangell and a dinner at Petersburg, with the whole week planned together in the Southeast," he said late Monday.

Two of BEGICH's former compatriots in the state legislature, State Sens. Lowell Thomas. R-Anchorage, and Chancy Croft, D-Anchorage, had been planning to fly to Kenai Monday morning but cancelled the flight because the weather was too rough.

"My wife and I drove down instead, and it was terrible in the Portage area," said Thomas, a private pilot. "There were some of the strongest winds I've ever seen."

Thomas said his first reaction was "What can I do?" "I have a plane, and if they need anyone I'll take it out to search," he said.

Croft said he had known BEGICH for several years and noted of his performance in the legislature. "I think he could store more knowledge in his mind than almost anyone I ever knew, and on a wide range of subjects. He was very conscientious, very hardworking."

Republican State Sen. Don Young of Fort Yukon, BEGICH's opponent in the race for the U.S. House, said the news "is a shock, and it's also one I understand because of his dedication to the state. . . . I'm optimistic he'll be found and pray that he will, I hope and pray that he's found and can continue his effort for the state."

Former governor and interior secretary, Walter J. Hickel, who has known BEGICH since the congressman was an Anchorage schoolteacher, said: "I just hope they're found safe, and we have nothing to say beyond that. It would be a loss to the country and the state both. I don't have any reaction except shock. He did an excellent job as congressman; there's no doubt about it that he served Alaska well."

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska for the hopeful message he has brought us. We certainly pray that Representative Boggs and the others will be found alive and safe as the search continues.

Mr. GRAVEL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to our missing Representative from Alaska. On October 16, 1972, an orange and white Cessna 310 disappeared somewhere in Alaska. On board, along with the distinguished House majority leader, Representative Hale Boggs, was Alaska's only Representative, Representative NICK BEGICH.

When news first reached my wife and me late in the evening of October 16, we along with all of Alaska were very hopeful that he and the other three occupants of the plane would be found safe. As the hours stretched into days and the days into weeks, it became more and more obvious that Alaska's beloved Representative would never return. Recently, hearings were held, and he was declared missing and presumed dead. Alaska has suffered one of its greatest losses.

NICK BEGICH worked tirelessly for his State. He had dedicated himself to better conditions for us all. Though he was a freshman Representative, NICK made the friends necessary within the House of Representatives to finally pass the Native Land Claims Settlement Act. "When you're one person out of 435," he had said, "you've got to make friends. You've got to have people in key positions helping Alaska. I have those associations." Not only did he have the associations, but he was recognized by the leadership of the House as one of the finest freshmen legislators of the 92d Congress. He received a standing ovation after the victorious floor fight covering the Native Claims Settlement Act.

NICK also was instrumental in passing other important legislation for Alaska, such as the Fairbanks flood control project. He served with dedication and distinction on the same committees in the House that I served on in the Senate: the Public Works Committee and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. On many occasions we conferred and adopted strategy to get key amendments and legislation for Alaska passed in committee. On one occasion, I testified at his request before the House Public Works Committee, on projects necessary to Alaska.

NICK BEGICH took his job as U.S. Representative seriously, and his devotion to Alaska and the Nation were repaid in kind. He won a warm spot in the hearts of all Alaskans and earned the admiration of

his colleagues and supporters everywhere. Like Alaska, he was a man of rich spirit and unlimited resources. We will all miss him.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, toward the close of the 92d Congress on October 16, 1972, a twin-engine plane carrying Representative Hale Boggs and Representative NICK BEGICH of Alaska was lost in flight somewhere between Anchorage and Juneau, Alaska. Following the longest and most extensive search in the history of America, on October 24, 1972, efforts to find these good friends ceased.

NICK BEGICH's loss was a tragedy for all America. His efforts in the House of Representatives in the period he was here were tremendous; his diligence, perseverance, and abundant energy made his mark on our legislative process. As a Member of the House, NICK participated in one of its landmark decisions, the Alaska Native Land Claims bill. His attendance at over 97 percent of the rollcall votes, participation in most of the subcommittee and committee hearings, and his earnest solicitation for support of legislation which affected our State gained him the respect of his colleagues in the U.S. Congress.

Starting as an educator in the schools of Alaska, NICK, shortly after statehood, pursued a career in politics. Elected to the State legislature, NICK's interest in his earlier career later became reflected in legislation which he advocated. His influence was felt and much of the credit for strong financial State support of education in Alaska must be given to him. After serving two 4-year terms at the State level, the latter portion as Democratic whip in the State senate, NICK once again set his sights on higher goals.

In 1970 the people of Alaska elected him to the House of Representatives. Energetically he set about his task. As the lone Congressman from our State, it was his responsibility to make known Alaska's needs to the rest of the membership.

The fact that we belonged to different parties mattered little. Both NICK and I knew our first loyalty was to Alaska. He was a politician in the best sense of the word—able to put aside partisan concerns for the sake of larger goals. When I worked with NICK, those goals were Alaskan interests. I was proud to call him my friend and I shall miss him.

Those of us who were privileged to work with Congressman BEGICH knew him best as he was with his shirt sleeves rolled up—a hard-driving, hard-talking legislator willing to work with others in

Congress to strike the best possible bargain for Alaskans. NICK had an abiding faith in God, our State, and our people. I have always thought it was this faith that served as the wellspring from which his tireless effort was derived.

NICK's family was always first in his heart. He reflected his pride in them and their pride in him. These human qualities are what we may best remember him for. These same qualities that made him a good Congressman made him an individual that compelled respect and yielded personal friendships.

The esteem with which NICK BEGICH was held by his fellow Alaskans was evidenced by the overwhelming vote he received in his November 1972 reelection bid, even though at that time, many feared that his plane would never be found.

NICK BEGICH made his mark helping Alaska be the kind of place Alaskans want it to be. NICK's legacy will always be part of Alaska.

Finally, I wish to commend the sacrifice and vigilance of all those persons who unhesitatingly cooperated in the performance of a valiant but unproductive search of all possible leads over a vast geographic and frequently navigationally hazardous area.

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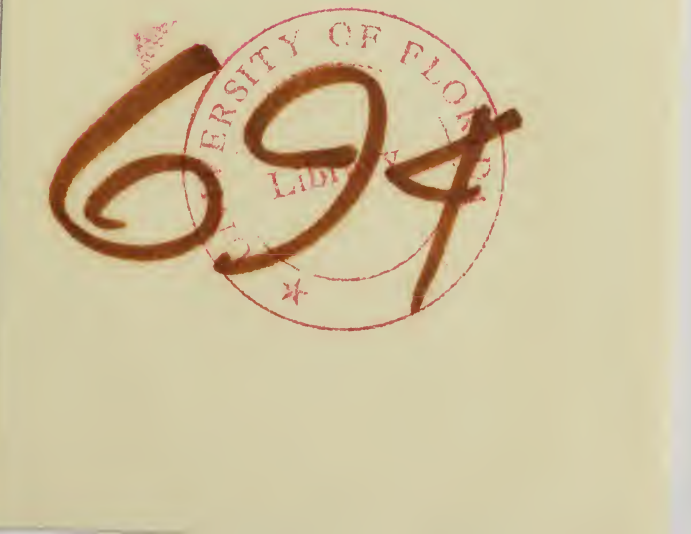

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